

[BEN]

Good morning, Arising Church!

Today is June 7th, 2026, and we are very excited to be with you guys. It has been a tremendous blessing to be with these men in preparing this word for you today. Isaiah says the following:

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NIV)

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

It is a joy to seek the Lord for his thoughts and his ways each week and we are excited to share what he is speaking to us specifically from the word.

The next verses say:

Isaiah 55:10–11 (NIV)

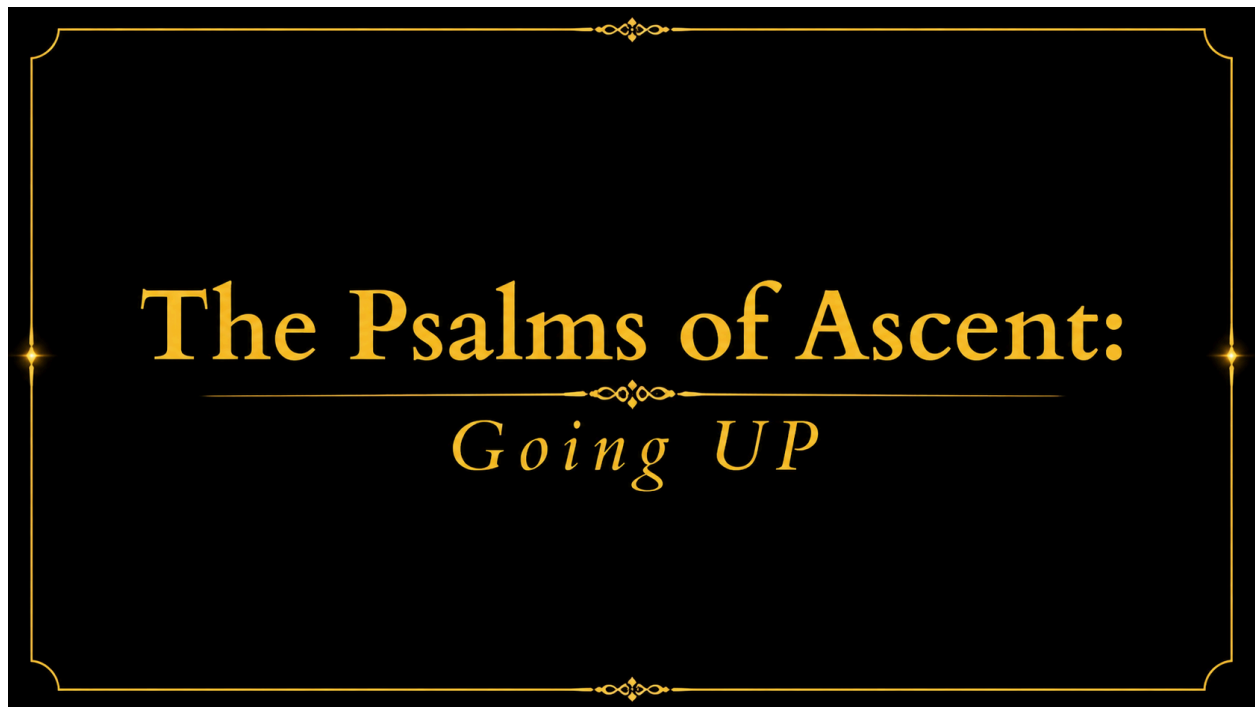
10 As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

**It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**

We know that his word will not return to him empty and it WILL accomplish what God desires and his purposes in our lives today!

Speaking of the incredible depths and riches of his word to us, wasn't last week's message about the Psalms of Ascent incredible?

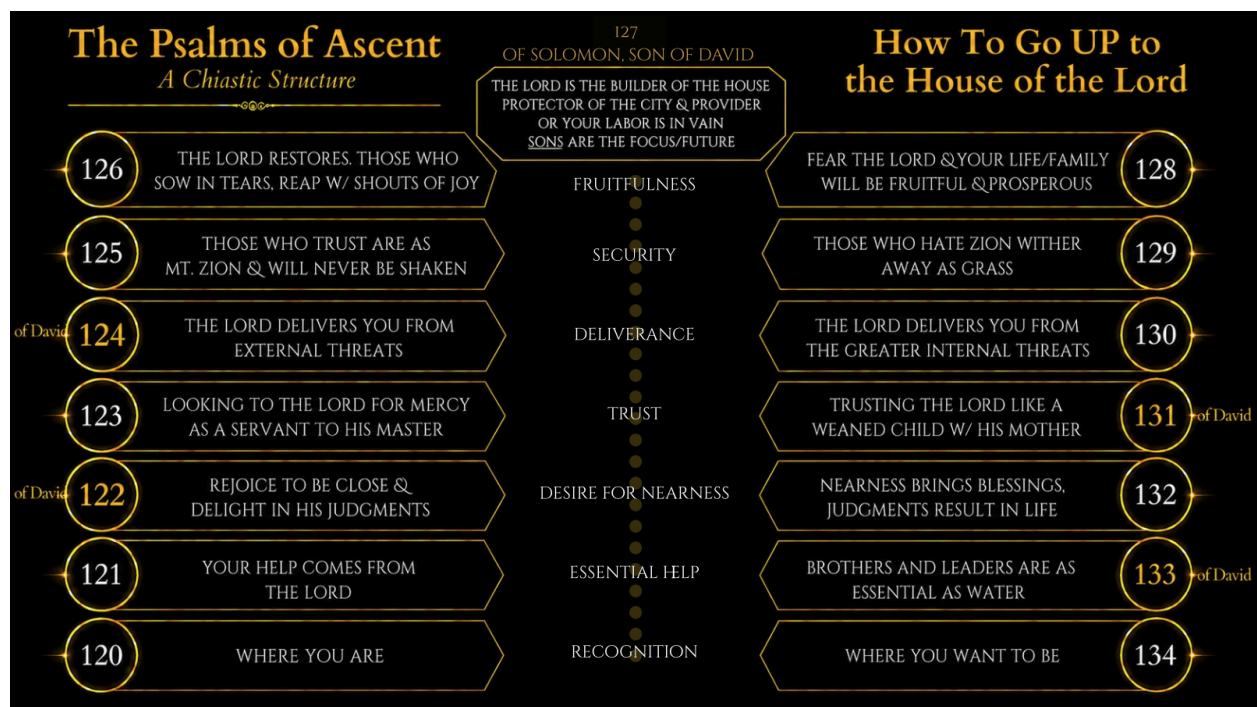


Thank you men, for that message. It deeply blessed us and is one you will want to go back and listen to and write in the margins of your Bible. It will not only bless you but also everyone around you that you minister to.

[CAE]

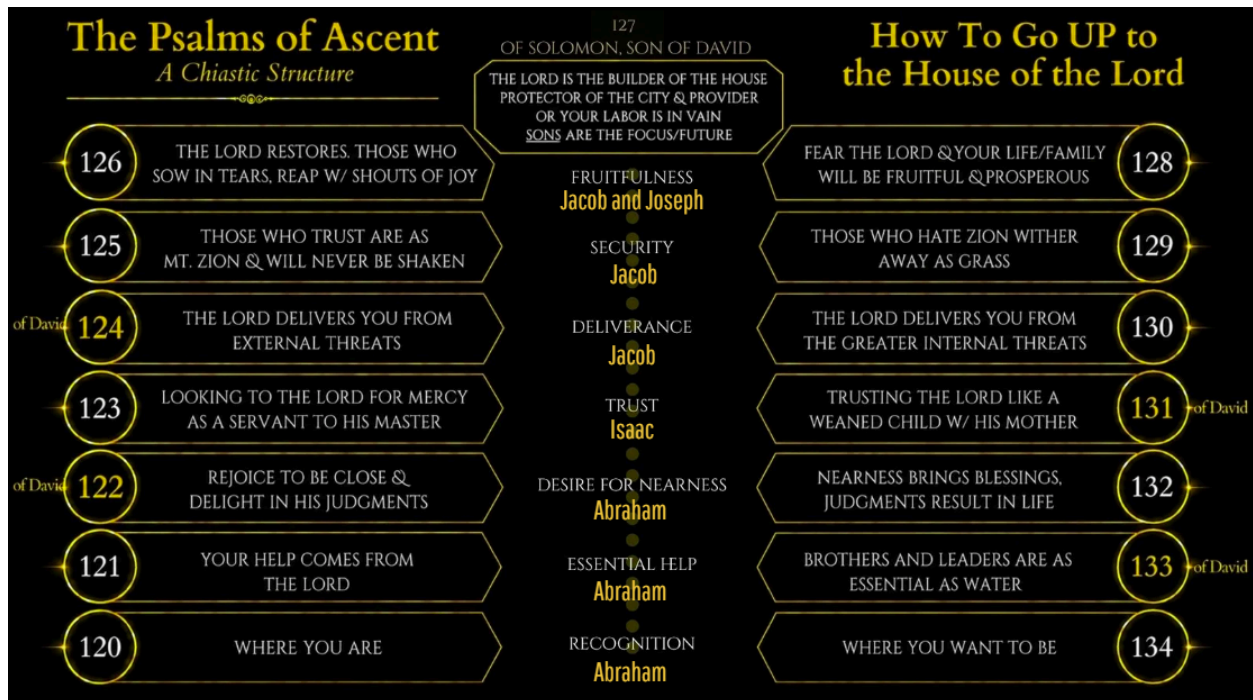
We want to take a minute and briefly go through some of the treasures that were gleaned from that message because it will help launch our message for today.

[DONT READ]



1. **Recognition:** our journey begins with recognizing that we are far from where God intends us to be...
2. **Essential help:** true help comes from BOTH the Lord AND through the gift of the brotherhood and leadership.
3. **Desire for nearness:** Rejoice to be close and delight in his judgments. Being close brings blessings, and his judgments always result in life.
4. **Trust:** Humble dependence on God's mercy produces a soul that trusts like a weaned child
5. **Deliverance:** God delivers you not only from external threats but from our deepest internal failures and sins.
6. **Security:** those who trust in the Lord are like a mountain and will never be shaken.
7. **Fruitfulness:** Even through tears of faithful obedience and trial, God will bring generational fruitfulness and lasting prosperity.
8. **SONS:** At the center of the chiasm, at the top of the ascent to the LORD, is the fact that the LORD builds and sustains and advances his purposes through sons who receive and carry forward the inheritance of faithful fathers.

One of the things that has forever changed us and this body has been our study of Genesis together and we couldn't help but notice that this Song of Ascents is the story of the family of faith, the patriarchs.



[IKE]

1. It starts with **Abraham** recognizing he is in a place (the fires of Babylon) he doesn't want to be and is called to a place by God where he should be.
2. In that place, **Abraham** finds out that God is his shield and that he has brothers and leaders standing next to him to rescue his nephew Lot.
3. **Abraham** becomes so close to God that God welcomes him into his divine counsel and Abraham is at peace with the judgments of God on Sodom and even his own son Ishmael and only experiences blessing and life because of it.
4. We can see the promised son, **Isaac**, as a picture of Trust. Both Abraham and Isaac looked to the LORD for mercy and trusted the LORD like a weaned child.

5. We move on to the life of **Jacob**, where we see God rescue him, not only from external threats like Laban and Esau, but also from the greater internal threats when he wrestled with him all night.
6. From that experience, **Jacob** became a secure son who could trust God through incredible suffering and remained unshaken, like Mt Zion. He and his sons' trust in the LORD brings them to Egypt.
7. In Egypt, we see the fruitfulness of **Jacob and Joseph**. Who both had sown in tears but reaped with shouts of joy. Their fear of the LORD had led them to have complete fruitfulness, prosperity, and restoration of the family.
8. At the height of the chiasm and at the height of Genesis, we have what the book of Hebrews talks about as the greatest act of Faith that **Jacob** achieved, the blessing of his sons to set them up to carry the covenant blessing, inheritance, and to continue to advance the kingdom of God on the earth.

[BEN] The point: Whenever you walk in obedience and faith, the ultimate outcome will always be sons...]

This really helps launch us into our message today, which is titled:

[READ SLIDE]



We would like to start with a passage from the Pirkei Avot, which means "Ethics of our Fathers." Remember that these are some of the most treasured wisdom sayings in Jewish circles. Preserved from the centuries between the Babylonian exile and the coming of Christ, they reflect the conversations that shaped the Jewish world of the New Testament. Their influence was so widespread that many of their themes appear in the teachings of Jesus and Paul.



Mention the camping trip

From Abraham to Moses, Joshua, the elders, the prophets, and ultimately Jesus and His disciples, God's work advances through generations. The blessings we enjoy today were exclusively built by those who came before us. EVERYTHING GOOD THAT YOU HAVE is because of what others have built before you. From your Bible to your phone. Therefore, sons must recognize their inheritance, continue the work, and remain thankful for what previous generations labored to establish.

We all must recognize that we are not the beginning of this work, nor are we the ones who are going to finish it.

You are a steward.

[IKE]

You'll remember this verse from the sermon Grasping Both: Sword & Bow Cycle

Ecclesiastes 7:18 (LSB)

18 It is good that you seize one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.

Many of us struggle with what we have received from our fathers (physical or spiritual). Many either worship the past or glorify it with exaggerations, look at Ecclesiastes 7:10.

Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NIV)

10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?"
For it is not wise to ask such questions.

It's easy to blow out of proportion the glory of the past and Solomon is writing that it is not from wisdom that you say this.

In contrast, many of us find ourselves despising it and want nothing to do with it.

Proverbs 4:1–5 (NIV)

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction;
pay attention and gain understanding.
2 I give you sound learning,
so do not forsake my teaching.
3 **For I too was a son to my father,**
still tender, and cherished by my mother.
4 Then he taught me, and he said to me,
"Take hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands, and you will live.
5 **Get wisdom, get understanding;**

do not forget my words or turn away from them.

A kingdom-minded man will honor the past and continue building, able to grasp both.

[CAE]

Look at this slide.

[DONT READ]



Slide explanation

We are going to walk you guys through 3 different types of phases:

1. Sons
2. The Middle man - Sons becoming fathers
3. Fathers

Turn in your physical bibles to **John 4:35-38**

John 4:35-38 NIV

35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus

the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 I sent you to reap what **you** have not worked for. **Others** have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of **their** labor."

In this passage in John 4, Jesus is speaking to his disciples at Jacob's well, which is located in the valley of Shechem, between Mount Ebal and Mount Gehr-iz-im.

We do not have time to show you that Shechem is where:

- God first promised the land to Abraham & his descendants - (Gen 12:6-7)
- Jesus & disciples were standing in, and the well that Jesus was drinking water from... were Jacob's land and well - (John 4:6 | Gen 33:19)
- Jacob gave a portion of Shechem TO HIS SON, Joseph - (John 4:5 | Gen 48:22)

But with that in mind, what was Jesus actually saying to his disciples in John 4:38 "I sent you to reap what **you** have not worked for. **Others** have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of **their** labor."

Quite a statement

Where was Jesus pulling this from for him to say these things?

Deuteronomy 6:10–12 NIV

10 When the LORD your God brings **you** into the land he swore to your **fathers**, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give **you**—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Moses reminds Israel, you guys..

- cities that you did not build,
- good things in your homes that... didn't come from you
- wells that you didn't dig
- produce that you didn't plant

Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of THEIR labor.

Moses reminded the people in his day of the fruit that God enabled their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to produce.

Moses not only preserved what was given to him but he also understood the value of handing over what was previously given so the next generation can go further

Possibly preach***

- **You can find God, but what you produce w that relationship..**

Marriage enrichment

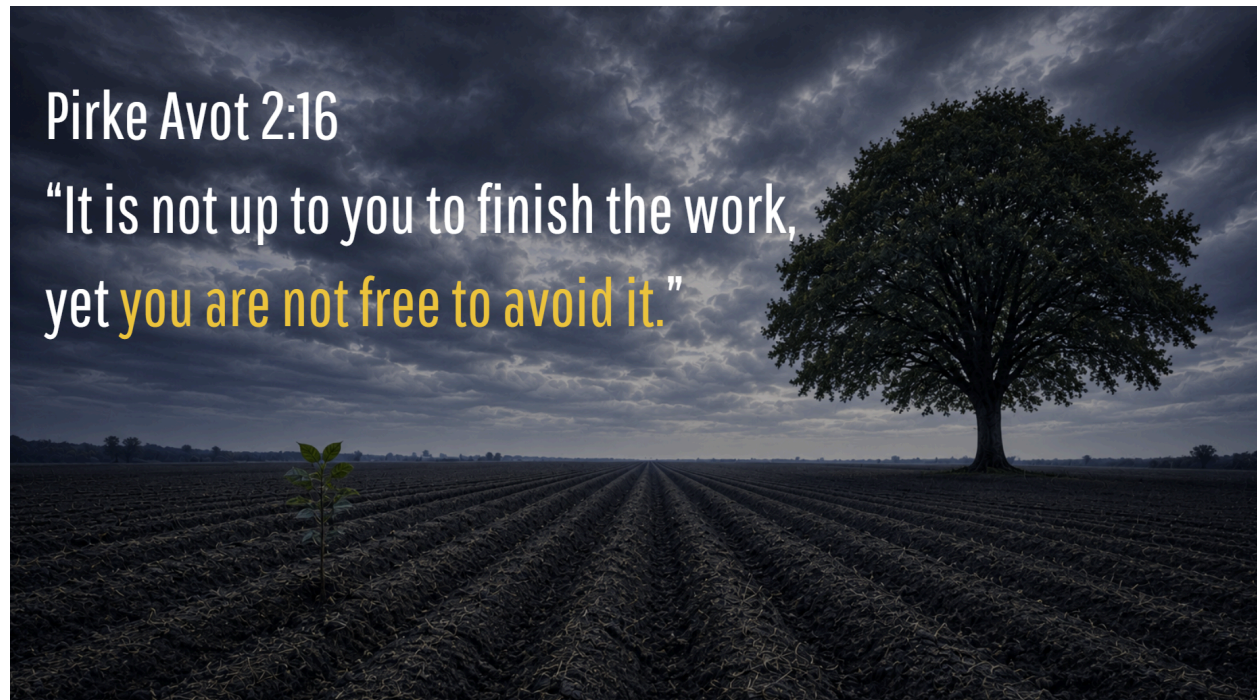
Parent teaching

Singles

[BEN - not treasuring the marriage teaching and the parenting teaching blessing us]

How are you doing at preserving what God has given you and passing it on to the next generation?

[READ SLIDE]



[IKE]

Moses may not have finished the work in his day, but he did disciple and raise up Joshua to carry it on!

Church turn to
Joshua 24:13 NET

13 I gave you a land in which you had not worked hard; you took up residence in cities you did not build and you are eating the produce of vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.'

Does this sound familiar?

This is exactly what Moses said in Deuteronomy 6

In verse 13 we see Joshua reminding the men in his day that everything that they had came from what God had given the previous generations.

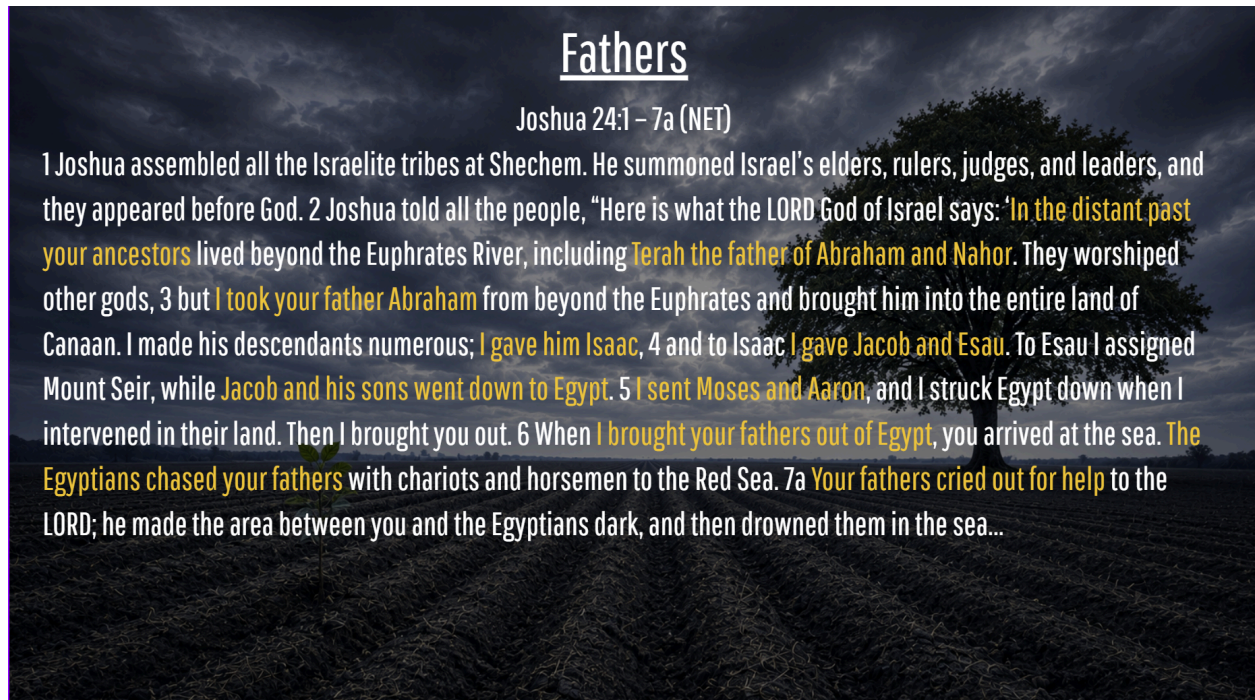
Joshua understood that Adonai is working... generationally.

And Joshua was given generational vision as he reminded the men of this reality in his day

[CAE]

Look at these slides.

[READ SLIDE]



I wish we can read the entire chapter of Joshua 24 but we can't

- Summarize the first 7 verses to help show you what this passage is screaming

This slide is titled "Fathers"!

9 times fathers are shown in these 7 verses

Read highlight*

- Expound on seeing each going through the son/father phase

Lets look at the next slide!

Joshua was reminding them of previous generations. Emphasizing their fathers. but this slide, verses 7b-15, Joshua is now addressing the current generation

[READ SLIDE]

Sons

Joshua 24:7b - 15 (NET)

7b You witnessed with your very own eyes what I did in Egypt. You lived in the wilderness for a long time. 8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought with you, but I handed them over to you; you conquered their land and I destroyed them from before you. 9 Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, launched an attack against Israel. He summoned Balaam son of Beor to call down judgment on you. 10 I refused to respond to Balaam; he kept prophesying good things about you, and I rescued you from his power. 11 You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The leaders of Jericho, as well as the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites, fought with you, but I handed them over to you. 12 I sent terror ahead of you to drive out before you the two Amorite kings. I gave you the victory; it was not by your swords or bows. 13 I gave you a land in which you had not worked hard; you took up residence in cities you did not build and you are eating the produce of vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.' 14 Now obey the LORD and worship him with integrity and loyalty. Put aside the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and worship the LORD.

Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Take a minute and look at all the things that this generation has been through:

- Witnessed incredible things with their own eyes
- lived in the wilderness
- have been brought to the land
- have battled and conquered
- have been rescued from spiritual forces
- Like their fathers, have crossed over water
- And they also had the Lord being with them in battle and it is by his hand that they won

All of these victories could make them prideful...

- But look at vs 13 again..."you didn't work hard, you didn't build..."
- It is helping them to have a state of mind that is humble.
- It is reminding them that everything they have comes from the Father.
- He gives them the ability to have even the strength to fight.
- Now in vs 14 and 15 he is saying:
 - It's your turn now to serve the Lord with the same confidence and the same humility that your fathers have had.

[BEN]

Turn in your bibles to psalm 78

Psalm 78:2-7 (NET)

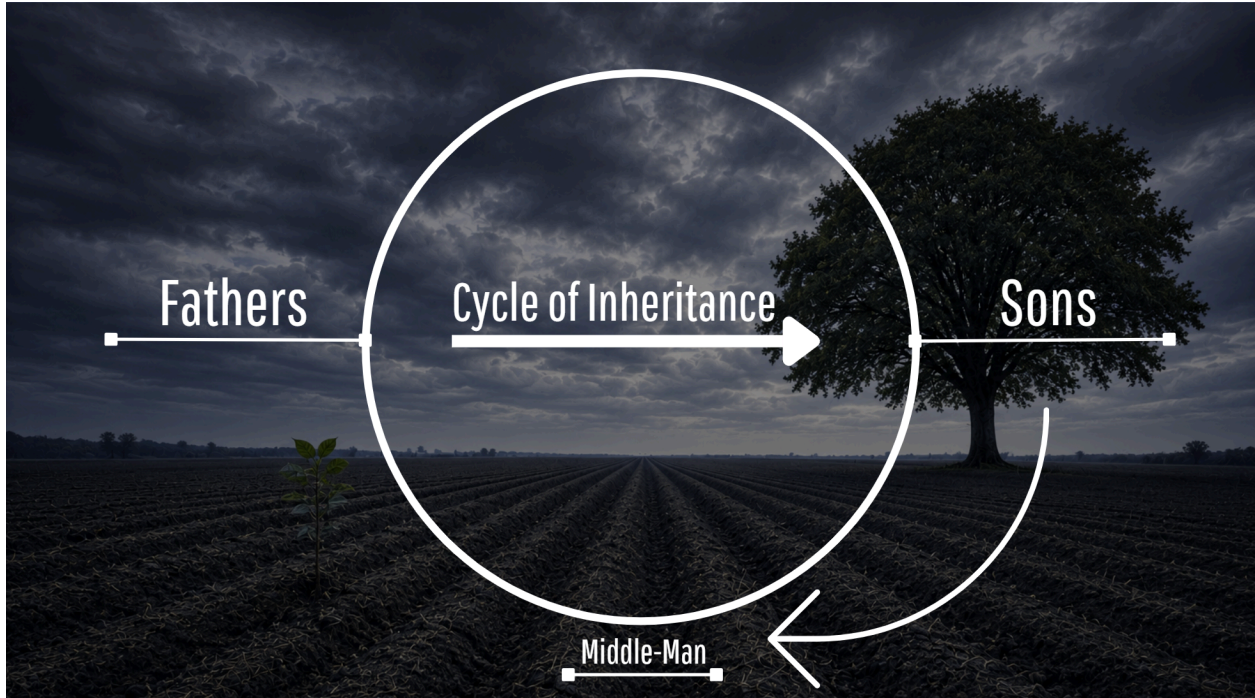
2 I will sing a song that imparts wisdom;
I will make insightful observations about the past.
3 **What we have heard and learned—**
that which our ancestors have told us—
4 **we will not hide from their descendants.**
We will tell the next generation
about the LORD's praiseworthy acts,
about his strength and the amazing things he has done.
5 He established a rule in Jacob;
he set up a law in Israel.
He commanded our ancestors
to make his deeds known to their descendants,
6 **so that the next generation, children yet to be born,**
might know about them.
They will grow up and tell their descendants about them.
7 **Then they will place their confidence in God.**
They will not forget the works of God,
and they will obey his commands.

Is this not the deep longing of every father in this room for their children?

Notice verse 4, we will not hide from their descendants. We will tell the next generation.

It's like he's saying we are the middlemen.

Look at this slide



HOMILETIC:

Ben on one side

Ike in the middle

Cae on one side

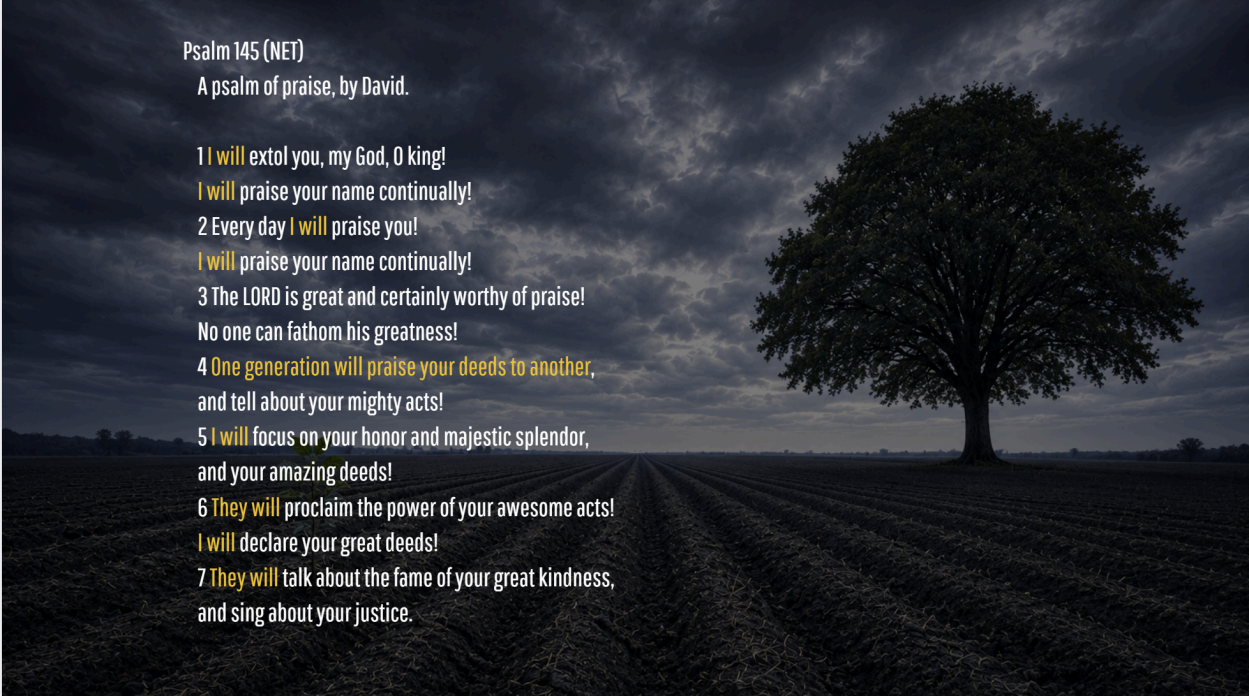
Ben passes a bible to me, I pass the bible to Cae

[IKE]

Most of the men in this room are in the stage of the middle-man. You have received from your fathers and now you are called to pass it on to your children, who in turn will place their confidence in God and do the same for their children. And they aren't just passing down anything; they are passing down a father's confidence in God to establish his work and glory throughout the generations.

It is to the degree you are confident **in** what's been given to you that you will instill confidence in your sons for the work that is ahead of them.

[READ SLIDE]



Psalm 145 (NET)

A psalm of praise, by David.

1 I will extol you, my God, O king!

I will praise your name continually!

2 Every day I will praise you!

I will praise your name continually!

3 The LORD is great and certainly worthy of praise!

No one can fathom his greatness!

4 One generation will praise your deeds to another,

and tell about your mighty acts!

5 I will focus on your honor and majestic splendor,

and your amazing deeds!

6 They will proclaim the power of your awesome acts!

I will declare your great deeds!

7 They will talk about the fame of your great kindness,

and sing about your justice.

Do you notice how he is saying both “I will” and “they will” several times?

And look at verse 4. This is a chiasm centered around the main point in verse 4.

“One generation will praise your deeds to another, and tell about your mighty acts!”

The mighty acts of God were never meant to terminate with us. They were meant to pass through us.

Every son who is becoming a father in scripture understood that he was not merely responsible for experiencing God himself; he was responsible for testifying about God to those who would come after him.

What does that actually look like?

How does a father declare the mighty acts of God to the next generation?

Is it merely by telling stories?

Certainly, it includes words, but scripture shows us that faithful fathers do more than speak. They prepare the ground. They create places where their sons can encounter the same God who met them.

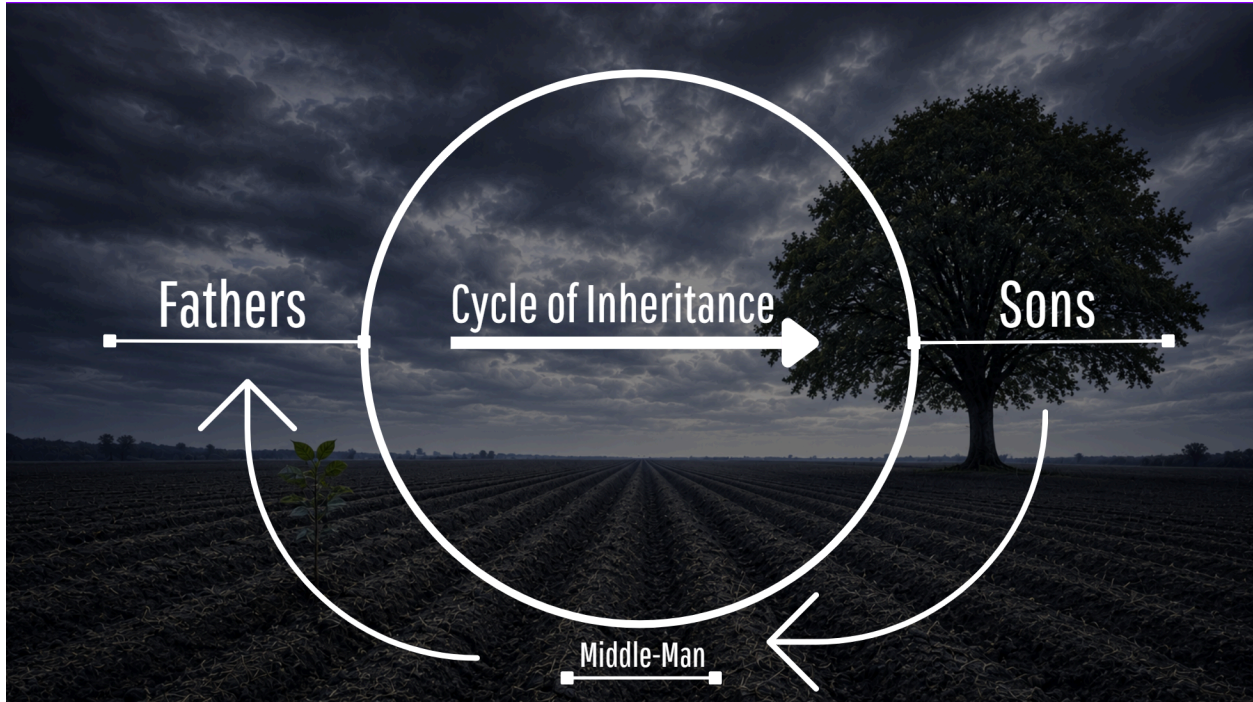
In other words, fathers do not merely leave information behind.

They leave an inheritance behind for their sons.

[BEN]

Let's turn to **Isaiah 37** and see the role of fathers in preparing the ground for their sons to harvest from. In context, the Assyrian king has invaded the kingdom of Judah under King Hezekiah, and is laying siege to Jerusalem. The Lord promises deliverance, and the sign for this deliverance is described in verses 30-31.

Isaiah 37:30-31 ESV 30 "And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. 31 And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward.



This is a pretty fascinating sign that God gives. How would a person eat, “what grows by itself”? This is either referencing wild plants that you are having to scavenge to eat from, or something that your father planted that is growing up, that you had nothing to do with, but you get to be nourished by the fruit! The sign that the siege will be lifted is that the people will be able to eat of the fruit that was previously left in the ground in the first year, have enough left over to not only eat, but to plant more in the second year, and then finally, plant something new themselves in the third year! This is the story of every son.

[CAE]

At the beginning, you are getting to eat and enjoy something that you never worked for. As you grow and learn, you are now learning to plant what has been sown into you. And finally, you learn how to sow and reap something new so that the cycle can continue into your sons! We must recognize the immense blessing that we have as sons of this house. All the amazing teachings that have been poured into us, that we didn't work for, but we get to receive the blessing from them! But if we remain there, then we would have utterly failed in the purpose

that God has for us! We were always made to be sons who receive from their fathers so that we can become fathers who give to sons!

Hebrews 6 gives us more insight into the role of fathers and the blessing that it is:

Hebrews 6:7 ESV

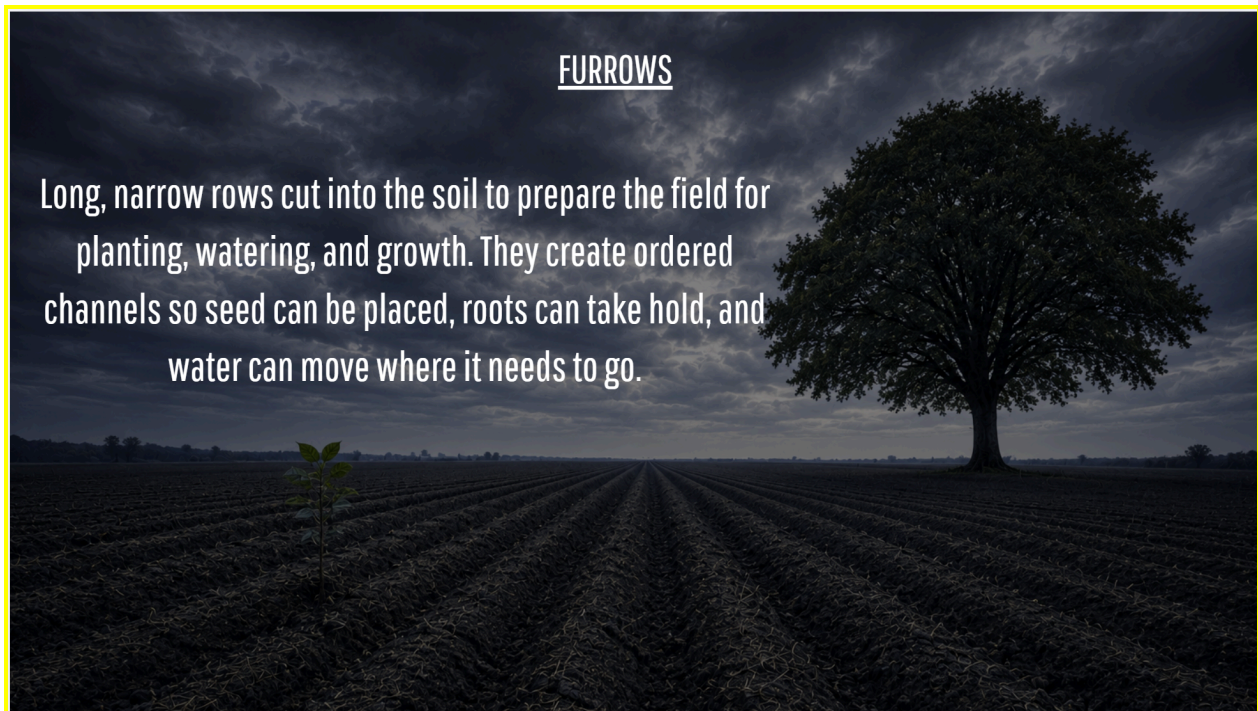
For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, **receives a blessing from God.**

[BEN]

Did you notice the writer of Hebrews doesn't speak about rain alone? He speaks about land. He speaks about cultivated ground. He speaks about a field that has received something from heaven and responded with fruit.

What strikes us is that the land receives rain that often falls upon it, but before the rain can be received, the land must be cultivated.

Someone had to prepare furrows. Someone had to break the ground. Someone had to work the field long before the fruit appeared.



TALK ABOUT ROOT SYSTEM - DIFFICULTY IS NOT BAD

The rain comes from heaven, but the furrows are prepared by the faithful hands of a father.

Look at this verse:

Ecclesiastes 5:9 (ESV)

9 But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

Kings/Fathers are committed to cultivated fields. Their focus isn't directly on the harvest. Their focus is on the cultivated field. It is speaking to the hard work of a field where you don't see a lot of fruit yet.

Most people celebrate the harvest. Few people appreciate the furrows. The harvest gets all the attention, but digging the furrows is what requires faith. A father cuts a furrow because he believes rain is coming, because he believes seed matters, because he believes God will be faithful even before he sees evidence of it.

Psalm 80:9 (ESV)

9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

The furrow is the visible mark that a father has labored in the field and made room for what God will send.

Furrows:

- Prayer
- Opening your home
- Acts of Obedience
- Discipleship
- Sacrifice
- Faithfulness

All of this is clearing the ground so that the rain from heaven can come and sons can take root and fill the land.

[CAE]

Psalm 65:9-10 ESV

You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

What a remarkable statement! The Lord waters the furrows. He does not merely send rain to empty fields. He sends rain to the land with prepared ground. He has always wanted to partner with fathers in his creation and this is proof of it. Furrows are always man-made!

God sends rain to places where faithful servants have labored.

He sends rain to places where people believed in him enough to prepare a place for his blessing before it arrived.

The testimony of all of our lives is that the rain has often fallen. The writer of Hebrews does not say the rain fell once. He says it often falls. Again and again, the Lord has visited the field. Again and again, He has sent His Word, His presence, His strength, His provision.

Rockford and many other places to come: we see faithful fathers preparing ground before most people can see the harvest that will one day emerge from it. That is how the Kingdom grows. Rain often falls on the ground that is prepared, then the seed is planted, and the harvest comes.

[IKE]

That is the story of Abraham building altars and of Isaac digging wells. That is the story of Joshua taking territory and of the prophets speaking to the land. In every generation, God finds faithful fathers who prepare ground they may never fully possess, dig wells they may never fully drink from, and sow into fields whose greatest harvest may come AFTER them.

LANDING

We are coming to a close, but there is one aspect of this whole teaching that we want to bring to your attention. That we believe shows itself in all of these

successful phases of son, middle man, and father that blessed us and we hope it blesses you.

[DONT READ]



In our title slide, you saw a sapling and a tree in a prepared field. We had thought the tree is like the fathers and the sapling like the sons... and that is true in a sense. The tree is what has been produced by the fathers, the field is the ground that was prepared by fathers for sons to work in and the sapling is the produce of a son's work.

Let's look at Proverbs 10:3-5

Proverbs 10:3–5 (NIV)

**3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.**

Man, is there anyone in this room who hungers for righteousness?

4 Lazy hands make for poverty,
but **diligent hands** bring wealth.

5 **He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.**

Or as the LSB puts it: “5 He who gathers in summer is a son who **acts insightfully**,
but he who sleeps in harvest is **a son who acts shamefully.**”

A son who **acts insightfully is** a son that knows the times and what he should do.

When we talk about diligence, what are some descriptions that come to mind?
Shout them out.

Hardwork

Not lazy

Focused?

Let's look at a few scriptures and really get a grip on what the scriptures are
pointing to.

DILIGENT

Proverbs 12:24 (NIV)

24 Diligent hands will rule,
but laziness ends in forced labor.

Proverbs 12:27 (NIV)

27 The lazy do not roast any
game, but the diligent feed on
the riches of the hunt.

Proverbs 13:4 (NIV)

4 A sluggard's appetite is never filled,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 21:5 (NIV)

5 The plans of the diligent lead to
profit as surely as haste leads to
poverty.

These are contrasts in character and outcome.

- **The diligent will:** rule, feed on the hunt, be fully satisfied and his plans will bring gain.
- **The lazy man will:** be forced to labor, never feed on the riches of the hunt, he will never be satisfied and he will always be in lack.

[BEN]

Diligence

Webster defines diligence as **earnest, constant, and persistent** application of effort or care to accomplish a task. **Careful and continued work; constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken.**

You want to find a diligent man, an insightful son? Find a man who has made up his mind and is making a constant and persistent effort to accomplish the tasks that his fathers have undertaken. **The work is the inheritance!** A man who hungers and craves the hard work in the field prepared by his fathers. You want to find a lazy son who acts shamefully, look no further than someone who craves the end result but makes excuses when it's time to work the field.

Proverbs 16:26 (NIV)

26 The appetite of laborers works for them;
their hunger drives them on.

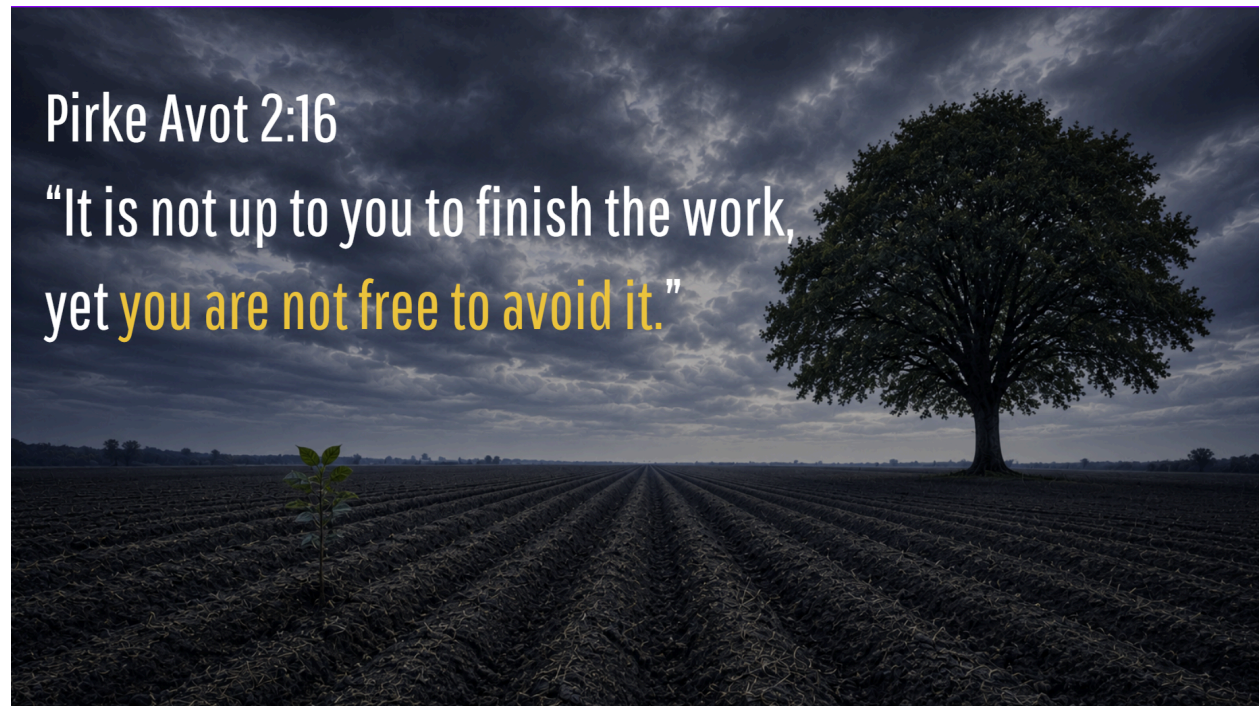
Men in this room, what are you hungry for?

What are you craving?

What inheritance have you been sleeping on?

What work have you been SHAMEFULLY undervaluing?

As we said earlier: **Pirke Avot 2:16**



[CAE]

Let's look at the Hebrew word for diligence.



Diligent sons are forged by diligent labor. The work of harvest in the summer field, beneath the heat of the day, teaches a son to fix his attention on the task at hand and to labor with purpose.

We have been talking about the perpetual cycle of faithful fathers raising faithful sons, sons becoming faithful fathers, and now those fathers raising more faithful sons. Each generation perpetuates and passes down to the next generation the vision, purpose, wisdom and commands of God.

[IKE]

We are to be a church filled with diligent sons that like insightful and wise stewards of the work that we have been given; slice through excuses the way a sharpened blade slices through the chaff. In the same way that a dull blade is useless for cutting, and it shows when one tries to harvest and nothing gets done. Excuses... are the mark of a dull son. He swings the tools he's been given well enough, but no work gets done. But the tools were never the problem...

Let's now compare Proverbs 10 and John 4 and see what Jesus says on this topic.

[READ SLIDE]



Proverbs 10:3 (NIV)

3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.

John 4:31–34 (NIV)

31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

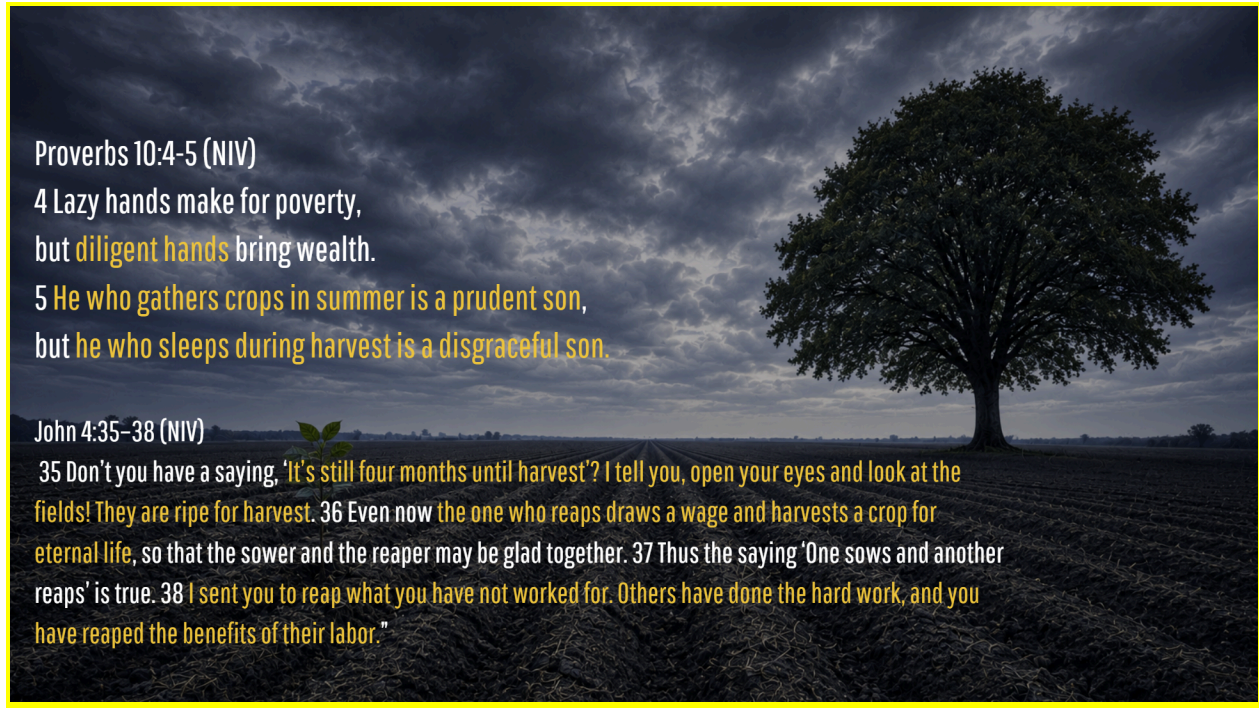
32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

33 Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

34 “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”

“My food... the thing that satisfies my craving as a diligent son. Is to finish my father's work.”

Because of the sharp focus that Jesus had on his Father's work, God did not let him go hungry AND He found himself Sharply Focused and completely satisfied.



Proverbs 10:4-5 (NIV)

4 Lazy hands make for poverty,
but diligent hands bring wealth.

5 He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son,
but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

John 4:35-38 (NIV)

35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Can you see how Jesus is not hungry? Why? Because he is diligent with his Father's work.

Can you see how the disciples are focused on the food, not on the field? And he says, "Look up, change, and sharpen your focus."

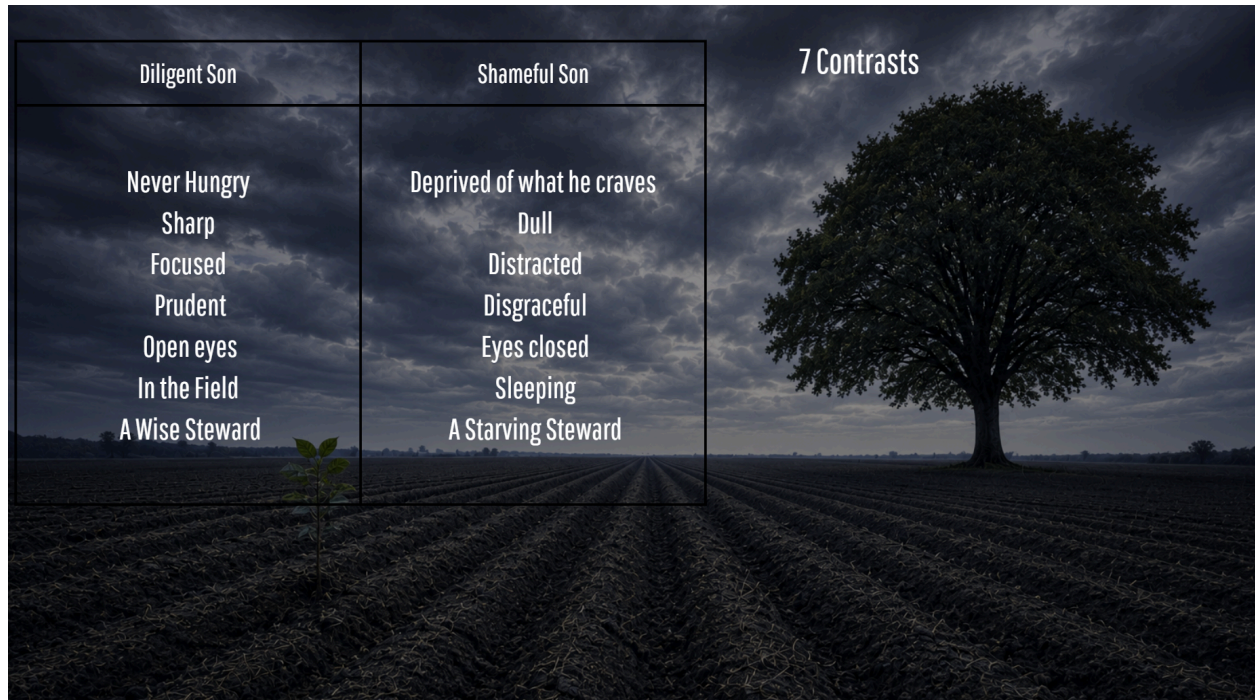
Can you see how he says don't you have a saying; it's not time yet to harvest? And then shows them it's time, it's been time. And there are many before you who have grasped this.

Do you see how Jesus points out that the hard work is already done by those who came before? And that it's basically like being handed every benefit and standing on the back of generations of kingdom labor.

An immature person will hear that and think "Oh so this is gonna be easy!"
A mature son hears that and says "I have been given every advantage, what can stop me?"

This should drive us to be the most grateful and diligent generation that has ever existed...

Take a look at this slide.



You get to choose, will you be a diligent, sharp, focused son stewarding the field of your fathers? Or will you make excuses, remain dull, distracted and live as a disgraceful starving steward?

[BEN]

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Every work that has been prepared in advance for you to do was prepared by God and you fathers who did the hard work for you in the field. Lift up your eyes to the prepared field and reap diligently with those who have sown.

Ephesians 4:1 (NIV)

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to **live a life worthy of the calling you have received.**

Not only have you received a calling from the Lord, but you have received a calling and an inheritance from your fathers. They have set you up for immeasurable success, so how could we not live in a manner worthy of the life they have handed down to us? How could we not be the most grateful and diligent generation in the history of the world?

This is not memorization of teachings in and of itself, but the mastery of the teachings for effective work in the field that has been prepared for you and perpetuating it to the next generation.

We have been learning about:

- The plan of God for Israel that has been passed down
- The law of God through Israel that has been passed down
- The hope of Israel that has been passed down for thousands of years from fathers to sons, till it found you...

Everything our churches have been aimed at, the resources, the tools, everything that you have been given is aimed at one thing: fathers raising sons that diligently handle the plan of God, the Law of God and the Hope of Israel and labor in that field where the fathers in this house have been digging furrows for years.

ALTER CALL

[Ike]

If you have been a shameful, distracted, and dull son; craving the end results but making excuses when it's time to work, and have found yourself unsatisfied and starving in the field that was prepared for you... you're not a victim. Repent, and turn from your way.

Come to the altar, cry out for transformation, that you will become a sharp, diligent son able to carry and pass on what you have been given to your children.