

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 67
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 12:13-21

Sermon September 25th, 2022

God Graciously Provides for Us

In our gospel this morning, Jesus has an encounter with a person who shares their frustration, because their sibling will not share of the family inheritance with them.

In response to this person's frustration, Jesus shares a parable about a farmer who receives an abundant harvest. Instead of sharing this harvest with those in their community who are in need. The farmer decides to build bigger barns to store away the remaining food for their own self interest. Unfortunately, this farmer dies. And now all that food will go to waste.

Jesus shares this parable with us to encourage us to share of the gifts God gives us with those in need in our community. We are not meant to hoard away these gifts (**Image**). To take the abundant harvest we gather, and keep it for ourselves. We are meant to share of this abundant harvest with others.

This is why God gives us more than enough. Because God invites us to be active participants with God in God's vision for God's creation. And part of this vision is to care for those in need in our communities.

We see this being played out throughout history. Both in the Israelite community and in the church. Caring for those in need is an important part of our identity as God's people.

Yet, how often do we struggle to share the gifts God gives us with others?

Sometimes our insecurities can get the best of us. For this farmer who wouldn't share the family inheritance. Maybe they were worried about not having enough land to provide the crop needed to feed their family if they shared their land with someone else. Or maybe the farmer in the parable, worried about the possibility of a drought next year, or early frost or snow, or too much rain, or hail (**Image**). There is so much that keep farmers worried, feeling insecure about their crops. It can be challenging to share of the harvest they receive.

For us city dwellers, we too spend a lot of time worrying about whether we will have enough. Will I have enough to retire? Will I have enough to support my children through university? Will I have enough to pay the mortgage or rent? Will I have enough to buy groceries? Will I have enough to go on that vacation? Will I have enough?

When we do receive more than enough, it is easy for us to put that extra money away for our own security. Instead, of sharing some of that with people in need in our community. People who don't have enough.

How often do we struggle to share the gifts God gives us with others?

Well, today in our liturgy, we commemorate the fall season. The time of year where the farmers are out harvesting the crops they seeded in the spring (**Image**). The time of year where we think about the abundant harvest. And how this harvest will take us through the winter months. The time of year where we reflect on our reading of Deuteronomy where we hear the invitation to share of our first fruits with those in need in our community.

The first fruits. Not the scraps or leftovers. The first fruits. The best part of the harvest. Let's put this in perspective of time. Before enjoying the harvest, ourselves, we are invited to share of the harvest with those in need.

Living in rural Saskatchewan for six years I had the opportunity to see how farmers keep this practice going. Every fall after the harvest is finished each farming community offers a supper in town where everyone in the community is invited. The dinner at one point in history was free. Now they do charge a nominal fee. Not very much for what you get to eat. But the idea is still there. Before they get a chance to enjoy their harvest the community does. Including those who do not have enough.

For us in the city, we recognize times throughout the year where we share of our abundant harvest with others. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter to name a few. In the fall, Thanksgiving is a day where we think about those in need. We donate food to a food drive or food bank. We help out at a soup kitchen. We put on community suppers where everyone in the neighbourhood is invited (**Image**). We give thanks for the abundance of food we have received from God by sharing that abundance of food with others.

Some of these ministries carry on throughout the year as we understand the ongoing support some people need.

Though we struggle to share of our gifts due to our insecurities, there are times where we refocus our attention on God's promise that God will provide for our wellbeing. And through trusting this promise, we take a chance. Sharing our gifts with those in need.

Today we commemorate the fall season. Today we watch as the leaves turn yellow, orange, and red (**Image**). Today we watch the geese fly south. Today we start to feel that arctic chill. Today we remember and give thanks to God for every gift God gives us. Including the harvest. Today we remember and give thanks to God for the invitation to

share of our gifts with those in need in our community. To be active participants in God's vision for our world.

Let us pray, loving God, thank you for the beauty that our fall season brings. Thank you for the abundant harvest you bless us with. Help us take up your invitation to share of this harvest with others. **Amen.**

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