

Faith Christian Fellowship
June 11, 2017
Due Season
4: Get Salty

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 3:1 / Luke 13:20-21

At the end of last year, the Lord said for 2017 we were to build our faith, share our faith, and stand in the gap. As part of that instruction He told me to “study seasons.” He said we are about to see three seasons overlap: Unprecedented blessing on those who dwell close to Him. Ezekiel 34:26, harvest from the years of planting Galatians 6:9, an open window of opportunity to reach people 2 Timothy 4:2.

Last week: We have looked at harvest in the lives of God’s people who live close to Him and are firmly planted, and harvest for seeds that have been planted for many years. We began looking at the idea of bringing in the harvest of souls, particularly that there really is a hell, and that Jesus is the only way to avoid it. We are living in an open window of opportunity to reach people, but we have to begin to take our Christian life seriously.

- 1) The harvest is in the world, not the Church
 - a) Here’s exactly what the Lord put in my heart: Daniel 2:18-22 We are in a new season, there will be calm before the storm. **Don’t ignore this window.** The dark is getting darker, there is a window of light. **The seeds of many decades are waiting to spring up.** There is a **silent majority in the Spirit** just like in the election. They are out there. They are hungry. Don’t let the media convince you that everyone is an idiot.
 - b) Christian Marketing 101: 1 Peter 3:14-16. Be who you are. Raise questions in those around you. Answer their questions.
 - c) Two major points today:
 - i) The harvest is outside the church building.
 - ii) The harvest begins with who you are, not what you say.
- 2) Our impact is outside the church walls. Luke 19:12-13
 - i) The world has invaded the church. It is supposed to be the other way around. We come to church to be refreshed, trained, and sent out to touch our world.
 - ii) Everywhere you go is an opportunity to impact eternity.
 - iii) When the marketplace comes in the church, it makes Jesus mad. Matthew 21:12-14 / Luke 13:20-21
 - (1) The Kingdom is supposed to leaven the world.
 - (2) It is done from inside the dough, not outside looking in.

(3) Assume you are His representative where you are. He sent you there to bring leaven.

(4) This is the essence of “in the world, but not of the world.”

- 3) Becoming leaven to the world around you
 - a) Matthew 5:13-16
 - i) You can be salt, but also be useless.
 - ii) Luke 14:34-35 Commitment: Are you sold out?
 - iii) Mark 9:50 – The absolute awfulness of sin. Stay salty, sincere and not just going through the motions.
 - iv) Jesus lit your lamp. He doesn’t want it hidden. Be salty.
 - b) Philippians 2:14-18
 - i) Complaining and arguing is self-centered. That is characteristic #1 of the world we live in.
 - ii) Living right is a prerequisite – it makes us obviously different.
 - iii) We shine brighter as the dark gets darker, separated by the blood, not the church walls.
 - iv) **Hang on to the Word.** It is:
 - (1) Our sword - Eph. 6:17. To neglect it means to be at the enemy’s mercy. (Or, needing friends to bail you out.)
 - (2) The source of all faith – Rom 10:17. Lack of faith starts with lack of Word. Neglecting the Word of God means a decision to live by your own ideas and strength. The just shall live by faith.
 - (3) The source of our inheritance – Acts 20:32. No Word, no inheritance.
 - (4) The seed that brings harvest – Mk. 4:14. No Word, no seed. Ignoring the Word leaves us with nothing to plant, ignoring eternity for others.
 - (5) What enables us to live in the world, but not be overtaken by it. John 17:14-17. In but not of.
 - c) **The window is open.** Let us not miss the opportunity. Prepare yourself to live right, fill yourself to speak the word, make a fresh commitment: I am a Christian first.

**Take steps each day to be sure your life expresses
commitment to Jesus.**

Charles Stanley