



Sermon Series: More Than a Sidekick: Serving Alongside Others

To be used with Session 6: Baruch

Sermon Title Possibilities: Called to Faithful Service

Scripture: Galatians 6:6-10

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “Baruch,” this sermon builds upon today’s Bible study by striving to understand the calling a Christian has to serve God even when it is difficult and tiresome.

Introduction: What is something you have done that was truly difficult? Some may have paid off all of their debt outside of their mortgage. Some may have even paid off the mortgage. Some may have taken on the challenge of running a marathon or half-marathon. No matter what the task may have been, when it was accomplished, you knew it was worth it.

Today’s sermon is one in which we will see a challenge in front of us. We are called to be faithful servants in God’s kingdom. This is not an easy task, and many have wanted to quit along the way. But if we are encouraged to finish the race the Lord has set before us, we will learn that it will be worth it in the end.

1. We need to be faithful to sow (Gal. 6:7-8).

As we approach the end of summer, some of us will take on the challenge of growing a garden. Some may grow colorful annuals in planters and others will try to grow fresh produce. The weekend gardener knows what will bloom because of the seed he places in the ground. Everyone else will be able to discern what was planted in time as the fruit of the seed eventually becomes evident.

Paul, who authored this text, helped the churches of Galatia understand an important truth: what we reap is determined by what we sow, and God is fully aware of what we are sowing. The choices we have are either to sow to the flesh or to the Spirit. The first reaps destruction and the second reaps eternal life. As followers of Jesus, we are called to sow to the Spirit and trust God for the results. When a farmer places seed in the ground, he does not simply walk away and hope for the best. Instead, the farmer is careful to cultivate the ground, water the seed, remove any weeds, and so forth. We, as followers of Jesus, are to emulate these actions. Sowing is not merely throwing seeds; it is also all of the hard work that goes with farming.

2. We need to be faithful to finish (Gal. 6:9).

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More than one or two weekend gardeners have stopped along the way. The weeds became too numerous, so they stopped. The constant application of fertilizer became too costly, so they opted to forgo the next application. Finally, the lack of obvious growth and yield was just too discouraging, so hope was lost. Paul continued with the farming metaphor and encouraged the churches not to give up as a harvest will be had.

Many of us have heard stories of missionaries who have traveled to foreign lands, sacrificed so much and never to see a harvest from their labor. One such story is the story of Jim Elliot. Elliot, his family, and several other missionaries went to Ecuador to evangelize a people group. On January 8, 1956, at the age of 28, Elliot gave his life for the gospel. One of Elliot's most famous quotes was, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Elliot never got to see the fruits of his labor, but they were vast as many came to know Jesus as Lord because of Elliot's witness.

We may not have people going to Ecuador, but we do have people going into our preschool and children's ministries every week. We may not have people moving their families to a foreign land, but we have people who are teachers, mechanics, and executives. Each of us are on the mission field when we exit this building, and we need not grow weary in our efforts as it will yield a harvest if we do not give up.

3. We need to be faithful to serve (Gal. 6:10).

If someone opts to be the weekend gardener, you know that you have a short window of opportunity to sow seeds. If you wait too long, and the plant does not start growing until late fall, the first frost will stunt or kill any growth or produce. Therefore, the gardener knows the importance of doing the needed work at the right time.

In similar fashion, God's church has been given an opportunity and we are called to work during this time of opportunity. The first truth we need to learn is that work is not a bad thing. Adam and Eve were told to work the garden, and this was before the fall. The second truth is that now is the opportunity. If we wait until we know all of the answers to all of the potential questions, we will not have sown the truth in a timely manner. Instead, we will allow the fear of not saying the right thing to paralyze us and thereby miss our opportunity. It is okay to have a healthy fear about this work, but we should never let fear stop us.

Conclusion: God's people are called to be farmers. We are to sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh. As farmers, we need to understand that the work is hard, it calls for long hours, and an abundance of patience. But, in the end, we will not be disappointed as we see that we will reap of harvest if we do not grow weary. While we may not see the harvest in our lifetimes, we need to trust that God is good and is always faithful to His promises. As we exit the building today, let us see the mission field right outside our doors and let us be found faithful in serving Him.

Author Bio

Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas

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