

“Not Holding Back”

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” Galatians 6:7-10 (NRSV)

Why do we hold back?

1. Deception
2. Fatigue

Mary arrived back at the tomb, broken and sobbing. She stooped to peer inside, and through her tears she saw two angels in dazzling white robes, sitting where Jesus’ body had been laid—on at the head and one at the feet! “Dear woman, why are you crying?” they asked. Mary answered, “They have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they’ve laid him.” Then she turned around to leave, and there was Jesus standing in front of her, but she didn’t realize that it was him! He said to her, “Dear woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?” Mary answered, thinking he was only the gardener, “Sir, if you have taken his body somewhere else, tell me, and I will go and . . .” “Mary,” Jesus interrupted her. Turning to face him, she said, “Rabboni!” (Aramaic for “my teacher”) John 20:11-16 (TPT)

What do we need?

1. Recognition
2. Re-awakening

Talk About It Questions

1. The message focused on how Jesus gives us strength to endure the most precarious issues of life. When have you experienced the strength of Jesus in your weakness? How would you encourage someone who is going through a very difficult time?
2. Paul encourages us to be on our guard against deception. Why would he say this? What are ways that we can be deceived during hard times?
3. What do you make of Paul’s analogy of sowing and reaping?
4. What is “the flesh” to which Paul refers?
5. Do you ever grow weary in doing what is right? What are some ways that you could find encouragement and perseverance during the times in which you find yourself fatigued.
6. When Paul says that we are to work for the good of all, to whom do you think he referring?
7. What are some applicable ways to work for the good of those in the family of faith?
8. Name some occasions that Jesus may have surprised you.
9. How do you recognize the work of Jesus around you?
10. How and why would legalism be detrimental to the re-awakening of our faith?
11. How do you think God sees you? Unworthy? Not good enough? Loved and forgiven? Why is this important in your faith walk?