

Called to the GARDEN

IN THE GARDEN WE ENCOUNTER GOD THE FATHER
(our master Gardner who grows and nurtures us)
WHO CALLS US TO RENEWAL

I. Experiencing God in the Garden (Gen 2:15-3:10)

In the beginning perfection was found in a garden

"In the Cool of the Day" we find:

A. Healthy Work: Gen 2:15

- *"to work it and keep it"*

B. Abundant Fruit. Gen 2:16

- *"every tree"*

C. Intimacy with Another. Gen 2:23

- *"bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh"*

D. Relationship with God. (Gen 3:7-10)

- *"God walking in the garden in the cool of the day"*

II. Thriving in the Garden (John 15:1-11)

A. The Value in Being There:

- We Learn Abiding... (nourishment)

- We Learn Discipline... (pruning)

GOD IS IN THE BUSINESS OF GROWING GOOD FRUIT NOT SUCKERS.

Abiding and discipline go hand-in-hand. Without pruning, the nourishment we receive is diverted away from the main thing.

B. Three Catalysts for Going there:

1-Commit to the Study of Scripture

-**exegesis**: scripture shapes how we view the world rather than allowing our view of the world to shape scripture.

(Greek- *exègeisthai*: to interpret; ex- (out) + *hègeisthai* (to lead)

The Observation, Interpretation, Application method

a. Observe:

Who? who's involved?

What? what's happening in the passage?

Where? where does it take place?

When? when did it happen?

Why? why did it happen?

How? how are things accomplished?

b. Interpret:

What does this passage mean?

Look up key words in a Bible dictionary

What truths are being communicated?

c. Apply: SPECK

S Is there sin that I should avoid?

P Is there a promise from God that I can claim?

E Is there an example for me to follow or avoid?

C Is there a command for me to obey?

K How does this passage increase my knowledge of Jesus

2-Practice Prayers of Communion

a. ARRIVE:

1. Slow Down – Water's surface must be still to see below

2. Pay attention to breathing and posture

3. You will discover that you are full of concerns, fears, anxiety, excitement, thoughts, feelings, etc.

But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things... Luke 10:41

b. RELEASE:

1. Turn over to Jesus

2. Confess any sin

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

c. ACCEPT:

1. Open hands and wait...

2. Receive His peace and forgiveness

3. Not something to control or manipulate – allow Jesus to comfort you.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

d. REST:

1. Enjoy God and allow him to enjoy you.

2. Allow intimacy to deepen.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30

WE SOMETIMES PRAY SO WE CAN GET SOMETHING DONE- RATHER THAN REALIZING
THAT PRAYER *IS* GETTING SOMETHING DONE!

3-Invest in Corporate Worship

Gathering together, or, corporate worship is important because it:

- a. assembles people together into the body of Christ
- b. narrates God's communication with these people in the service of the Word
- c. moves the assembly into the world to love and serve the Lord

C. The Danger in Staying There:

AS WE ARE RENEWED BY THE FATHER-
STUDYING HIS WORD, RESTING IN PRAYER, AND GATHERING TOGETHER AS THE BODY-
WE DEVELOP DEEP ROOTED FAITH THAT *SUSTAINS*

The *OVER*-emphasis of staying in the "garden" and refusing to go out leads to...
-A consumer-mentality that ends in ...Atrophy

III. Meeting Jesus in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46)

38 *Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."*

- 1. *"remain here"* (μένω): same word Jesus used as he taught his disciples in John 15
- 2. *"and watch"*: be vigilant. commit, practice, and invest in this.
- 3. *"with me"*: apart from Jesus it's pointless. with him it's life changing.

**MAY WE ENCOUNTER GOD THE FATHER,
OUR MASTER-GARDENER,
WHO GROWS AND NURTURES US,
AND CALLS US INTO RENEWAL.**