

5 day bible study in Hosea: Sowing and Reaping Righteousness.

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This 5 day bible study on Hosea 10:12 dissects the Bible verse and brings light onto the righteousness God brings to us as we seek love, mercy, and compassion.

Day one.

Righteousness extends love and kindness to others.

Hosea 10:12. New International Version.

***12 Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until God comes
and showers righteousness on you.***

We make ourselves righteous, by loving others and extending the kindness of God to those we interact with. This action plants the seeds for a better world. Often we look for love and kindness in return to verify our role as a righteous individual, but the unfailing love we reap is so often the easing of another's burdens and heart ache. The kindness and love we are able to provide through our righteousness transforms the world and tells those disheartened and in despair that there is still hope. A hope that can weather the storms of life when all seems unfair and unjust.

Righteousness is usually associated with correct ethics and morales, and while this may be true, this type of divine love and kindness surpasses ethics and morals. It acknowledges the Imago Dei, the divine spark in the human across from us. It passes along unfaltering love and kindness unconditionally, without need for ethics, politics, or requirements. This righteousness is love spilling over onto others and is contagious. This extreme display of love and kindness softens hearts, and connects us to each other spiritually. Communing together in equal shared love and kindness not only refines righteous living, but brings a miraculous kingdom to fruition. A peaceful, and gentle community that is also just and unwavering.

As you explore righteousness in the coming days imagine how you can extend love and kindness to those who you interact with often.

Day two.

Righteousness Ripe for Harvest.

Hosea 10:11-15. The Message

***11-15 Ephraim was a trained heifer
that loved to thresh.
Passing by and seeing her strong, sleek neck,
I wanted to harness Ephraim,
Put Ephraim to work in the fields—
Judah plowing, Jacob harrowing:
Sow righteousness,
reap love.
It's time to till the ready earth,
it's time to dig in with God,
Until God arrives
with righteousness ripe for harvest.
But instead you plowed wicked ways,
reaped a crop of evil and ate a salad of lies.
You thought you could do it all on your own,
flush with weapons and manpower.
But the volcano of war will erupt among your people.
All your defense posts will be leveled
As viciously as king Shalman
leveled the town of Beth-arba,
When mothers and their babies
were smashed on the rocks.
That's what's ahead for you, you so-called people of God,
because of your off-the-charts evil.
Some morning you're going to wake up
and find Israel, king and kingdom, a blank—nothing.***

A harsh word contextually comes from this idiomatic interpretation from The Message. We see this passage outline the reason reaping the rewards of righteousness is so very important. Without love to reap, unfailing unwavering love, evil sprouts up as a weed fertilized by lies. Because love lives in truth.

The evil are those pretending to plant righteousness, and lying about their harvest of love. Painting a picture of kindness and godliness, to save reputation or self interest.

We as a community must be vigilant. True righteousness cares about the other before the self. Righteousness sees the divine spark in each person setting the captive free.

Planting love and kindness to reap this righteousness creates a holy people of God, where trust and truth reside. A kingdom protected before self interest, for the good of the community, a community loved.

How do you fit as a puzzle piece in your community? Where do you see yourself sowing a righteous love and kindness? The betterment of others and our communities comes at a sacrifice and dedication. Commit to making the sacrifice needed to better those around you. It will always be worth it.

Day three.

The Righteous Love of God.

Hosea 10:12. Young's Literal Translation.

12 Sow for yourselves in righteousness, Reap according to loving-kindness, Till for yourselves tillage of knowledge, To seek Jehovah, Till God come and shew righteousness to you.

Seeking how God would include the outsider and bring righteousness to all people is the fire that fuels our passion for justice. This justice flows from the throne of God, a merciful Savior who wants to break down barriers and unify the Family of God. Unification is at the heart of the divine and brings all of God's family in together.

As we envision and include this idea of justice into our narrative we become like Jesus, including the estranged, and acknowledging the self-worth all deserve. God has loved us from the beginning of our days, and wants to steep us in loving-kindness, so that we may radically infuse the rest of the world with love. Where can you spread your radical love to those around you today?

Day four.

The Grace of God.

Hosea 10:12. International Children's Bible.

12 God said, 'Break new ground.

Plant what is right.

Then you will harvest good things

from your loyalty to me.

It is time for you to turn back to me, the Lord.

Do it until I come and pour out my goodness on you.'

A yield of love comes from a wonderful planting of mercy, compassion, and justice. Righteousness brings a harvest of equity, bringing all in equally and giving them a seat at the table.

We must break up the ground, working the hard parts of our hearts over so that love stays tender and kind. Keeping ourselves open to sharing God's kindness is the key to opening the gates for righteousness to prevail in the world.

Longing to bring God's kindness to all people is the catalyst that we need to bring peace and justice into the world. Moving to a more compassionate lifestyle that includes and welcomes the marginalized brings the kingdom of God to fruition. When we as a community can live together in harmony and peace, God's kingdom is with us. Look for the evidence of God's kingdom today all around you and see where you can take part in building and expanding the kingdom to those less fortunate than you.

Day five.

Sharing Your Crop of Righteousness.

Hosea 10:12. The Voice.

***12 Plant a crop of righteousness for yourselves,
harvest the fruit of unfailing love,
And break up your hard soil,
because it's time to seek the Eternal
until God comes and waters your fields with justice.***

God wants to come and water the fields of our communities with Justice. The oppressor stopped, and the oppressed set free. For in the kingdom of God none oppresses or is oppressed, all are equal in the unfailing love of God.

Planting a crop of righteousness is seeking this right justice, but also a right mercy, love, and compassion. These pillars hold up righteousness and maintain its influence in the world, creating a just society where all are included, loved, and involved.

For us to succeed we must commit to God our mission to love justly, with mercy and compassion in all things. Our dedication to the overpowering love of God sets those around us free and creates us the metaphorical hands of Jesus.

Let God use you for the betterment of society. Through you God wants to transform society and lift up others into unfailing righteous love.