

Church of God

The Biblical Grandview

Gleaning Hearts

Gleaning Hearts

Sermon Transcript

Cleaned and edited from Vosk AI speech-recognition output

The fall harvest season is something that we look forward to every year, and as we approach the Feast, our minds naturally go to harvest imagery: vineyards, fruits, gathering in the increase. And throughout Scripture, harvest is often tied to people, to God working with humanity, and ultimately the final gathering into His Kingdom.

But one aspect of the harvest that is easy to overlook is the concept of gleaning. When we think of gleaning, we usually think of farming: leaving part of the field behind for those in need, leaving grapes on the vine, not going back over the field a second time to collect every last piece.

But today I would like to look at gleaning, about how we can glean our hearts with our relationships with others. How do we do this?

By allowing space in our lives for others, leaving room in our time, our attention, our compassion, and our relationships for the benefit of someone else.

A long, long time ago, when I used to go to summer camp, we were always taught to never take the last item, whether it was the final piece of bread on the table, the last glass of juice in the jug. We were taught to stop and think of others first,

to think, “Has anyone else had some? Does someone else need this more than I do?”

At the time, it seemed like such a small thing, but looking back, it was teaching a principle much bigger than food. It was teaching us not to consume everything for ourselves, to leave something for someone else, to think outwardly instead of inwardly. And that is the mindset behind gleaning.

Today society pushes an opposite message: take what you can, hold on to everything, protect your own interests first, make sure you get yours before someone else does. But God’s instructions about gleaning teach a completely different spirit.

Please turn with me to Deuteronomy. We’ll start in Deuteronomy 24, read verses 19 to 22.

Deuteronomy 24 and verse 19:

“When you reap your harvest in the field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

And when you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again. It shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

And when you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward. It shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore, I command you to do this thing.”

God didn’t state that they had to give away the entire harvest. The fields were still harvested, and God blessed them for that, but they were commanded to not take everything for themselves. Why? Because God wanted them to remember that others existed: the widow, the fatherless, those that are struggling, hurting, and in need.

Gleaning built compassion into everyday life. And the verse mentions vineyards and grapes--grapes are often tied to the fall harvest that we associate with the Feast and the final gathering. God wanted His people to think of others, not just themselves.

And this principle goes far beyond crops. It plays a part in how we interact with people. Do we leave room for others emotionally, mentally, spiritually, or do we consume everything for ourselves?

Sometimes we can be so busy, so focused on our schedule, our stresses, our own lives, that we leave no room for anyone else. But gleaning our hearts means leaving margins for people, allowing time for someone to talk, listening when we are tired. Maybe it means being patient when someone simply needs encouragement.

Sometimes that smallest interaction can matter deeply to someone else, even when we don’t realize it, because we do

not always know what people are carrying internally. A person may walk into services smiling while privately struggling with discouragement, family stress, their own spiritual battles. And if we are too consumed with ourselves, we can miss those opportunities to help.

Gleaning created that awareness of others. It created an outward mindset, and that is very different from the spirit of this world.

Please turn with me now to 2 Samuel. 2 Samuel, we’ll go to chapter 12 and read verses 1 through 6.

2 Samuel 12 and verse 1: “The Lord sent Nathan to David, and when he came to him, he said, ‘There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared its food, drank from his cup, and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.’

“And David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die. He must pay for that lamb four

times over because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

We know the deeper meaning behind the scripture, but before David came to that realization, he immediately was angry because the selfishness was obvious. The rich man already had enough, more than enough, but he still wanted what belonged to someone else.

And when we hear that story, we often think, “How could someone do that?” But reality is, human nature pulls us inward. It wants to preserve the self, protect the self, focus on the self. That is why God continually teaches us outward thinking, because if we aren’t careful, we can develop the attitude that says, “What I have is mine. My time is mine. My attention is mine. My energy is mine.”

But gleaning our hearts changes that perspective. It reminds us not everything has to revolve around us. We do not always have to hold onto every last grape in our vineyard. We need to leave room for others, room in our schedules, our conversations, room within our hearts. And if we fail to do that, we can slowly lose sight of the people around us.

Please turn with me now to 1 John chapter 3, and we’ll read verses 17 to 19.

1 John 3 and verse 17: “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in

word or in tongue, but, in deed and truth.”

The phrase “shuts up his heart” is different from a gleaning heart, because a gleaning heart stays open. A gleaning heart notices. It sees. It responds.

Gleaning fields also created community.

It reminded Israel that they were connected to one another. No one was supposed to be invisible. No one was supposed to be forgotten. And the Church should be reflecting that same spirit today as we approach the Feast season.

The Feast pictures that future gathering of humanity into God’s family, that final harvest, the final ingathering. What attitudes should characterize people preparing for that Kingdom? Certainly not selfishness or greed. It should be generosity, compassion, concern one for another.

Gleaning our hearts allows us to develop the right attitude now for the Kingdom God is preparing. It teaches us to think outwardly, to notice needs, to care about people, to make room in our lives for others. And as His people, we are called to develop that same heart.

As we prepare for the Feast and think about the coming harvest, let’s remember that God is doing more than preparing for the final gathering of His people. He is also preparing our hearts.

The law of gleaning was never just about crops. It revealed the heart of God, a

heart that shows mercy, provides for those in need, and teaches His people to think beyond themselves.

And we need to be asking ourselves: are we leaving room in our lives for others, or are we trying to gather every last grape for ourselves?

We need to learn to be people who leave room for compassion, room for service, room for encouragement, to make sure we are developing hearts that notice those who are struggling, making time for those in need, reflecting the generous spirit of our Father.

Because when God looks at the harvest He is preparing, He is not only looking for people to gather into His Kingdom; He is looking for people whose hearts have learned to love and care like His.

---END---

Editorial Notes

This transcript was cleaned from raw Vosk speech-recognition output. Edits were limited to punctuation, capitalization, sentence boundaries, paragraph breaks, and correction of clear recognition errors. The speaker's wording, cadence, and asides have been preserved throughout.