

THE NEGLECTED GARDEN
Text: Proverbs 24:30-34

INTRO: Much can be learned in life by simply paying attention.

I. THE WISE MAN TAKES US TO A SCENE WE HAVE ALL VIEWED BEFORE--a neglected farm or garden, vs. 31.

NOTE: This scene, perhaps, conjures up different thots to each of us, but probably most all of us would use the word "waste" in trying to describe the scene to others. A garden is going to waste, the entire project is a failure.

II. WHY IS THE FARM SUCH A FAILURE?

A. Negative.

1. Not due to the soil. It produced a good crop of weeds
2. Not the fault of intruders: rabbits, deer, birds.
3. Not that the farmer planned to fail. He did not plant thorns & nettles or tear down the fence.

B. Positive: Obviously the failure is summed up in one word: Neglect.

1. destroys gardens.
2. marriages, Eph. 5:24-25
3. children, Eph. 6:4
4. businesses.
5. churches, Heb. 10:25

III. BUT WHY DID THE FARMER NEGLECT HIS FIELD OR VINEYARD? Two reasons are cited in the text, vs. 30.

A. Laziness.

1. Has had its impact in industry.

2. In government.
3. In churches.
4. We need to realize that work is not a curse. Gen 2:15
5. Work is God-like, John 5:17

B. Devoid of understanding--of the law of sowing & reaping? Think it does not apply to them.

1. Too optimistic, guilty of pipe dreaming, "good will come." Surely a few seeds will come up volunteer from last year's planting. 1 Cor 3:6.
2. Too pessimistic: "won't do any good." Nathaniel, JN 1:46; Moses, EX 3:11 thru 4:18.
3. No goal. Failure to recognize the value to be gained.
4. Not aware, or forget that it is our responsibility to make the best of what is put in our trust.

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; & to whom much has been committed, of his they will ask the more. (LK 12:48).

- a. What you do not have & cannot gain is not your responsibility.
- b. What you cannot do is not your duty.
- c. But there are things you do have, opportunities, abilities, etc. These

matters we must account
for in the final judgment.

CONCLUSION: The wise man looked at the neglected garden & learned a lesson. Will we?

La Porte, TX, December 11, 1983

Exton, PA, June 5, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 8, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 1, 2004