

In a scene from the movie, Facing the Giants, (and if you haven't seen this movie, you need to) Mr. Bridges goes into Coach Taylor's office. He reads from Revelation 3 and then gives the embattled coach a word of encouragement, words that he felt led to give him. After leaving his office, Coach Taylor chases him down to continue the conversation. Mr. Bridges then shares a story about two farmers who desperately needed rain. He said that both farmers prayed for rain, but only one farmer went out and prepared his fields to receive it. Then Mr. Bridges asked, "Which one do you think trusted God to send the rain?", to which Coach Taylor responded, "Well, the one who prepared his fields for it." His final words to Coach Taylor were, "Which one are you? God will send the rain when He's ready. You need to prepare your field to receive it." This was the turning point in the movie for Coach Taylor, but I won't spoil any more details for you. Go and watch the movie yourself.

So, why do I share this story with you? It is not because this is a farming community in the midst of harvest season, but rather to encourage you to prepare your fields (your hearts) to receive that which God is going to send. From 2 Corinthians 5:6-7, "***So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.***" This is a hard thing to do since we are a people that trust what we can see, hear, understand, and control. And when we can do those things, it is easier to go out on a limb but sometimes we just need to go out there and trust God. We need to prepare our fields and then trust God to bring the rain. Farmers do that every spring. There is no guarantee that after the seed goes into the ground that rain will come. Farmers must first prepare the ground and then put everything into God's hands. And this year, we are seeing a great harvest. Praise be to God!

A little closer to home and to your heart: What is it in your life that you need to leave to the Lord? Is there a big decision that needs to be made at your church? Pray and prepare your fields. Is there a big decision regarding your family's future? Pray and prepare your fields. Do you need a miracle? Pray and prepare your fields. Too often we simply wait for the Lord to do something, but we just sit and do nothing. Rather, pray and then take that leap of faith, and wait for the rain. Not being ready for the answer/miracle, we risk missing what God is truly doing. So, walk by faith and not by sight and trust the One who brings the rain. Prepare your fields and get ready. God is doing a thing.