



SERIES: A Season of Hope

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, 12/10/20

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

TITLE: Everyday Ways. Everyday People.

“Try something”. That's the advice I gave my leadership team when they didn't know how to reach out to the lost. Try something. That's exactly what I did. I tried something. Hello - what did I try to reach the lost?

I've been a gardener for probably 15 years now. I don't do flower gardening, though I appreciate a nice flower. I like a big hardy vegetable garden. I'll plant tomatoes, peppers, green beans, cucumbers, eggplant, and the list just goes on: The bigger the garden, the better. But when we moved from our first house to our second home, I wasn't sure what I would do with my garden. We had a big backyard, but it really wasn't configured for a garden. So I looked at my wife and said, “Why don't we put it right by the front sidewalk?” My wife said, “Why would we do that?” Well, for one, it gets great sunlight, and the residual water from rain would run right past it, so it would be adequately watered. But I said, “What if it was a place where people from the neighborhood could gather? I mean, we love to connect with our neighbors, and we know that the neighborhood is full of lost people. What if while gardening, people walked by and talked to us and we talked to them?” What did my wife say to that? “Sure. Try it.”

I will tell you, for eight years, that garden was the social hotspot of the neighborhood. People knew to come by for a conversation, some free produce, and even some Gospel.

Did you know the Apostle Paul had a try-it philosophy when it came to outreach? He did! Listen to what Paul writes in 1 Cor. 3:6-9 (NLT), “I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. ⁹ For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.”

You see, I really think we've overcomplicated outreach. Paul says, “I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.”

God is asking you and me to daily scatter seed and water wherever we are located and in whatever we are doing. Today, if you like to golf, invite a friend, or a family member, or a neighbor, or a coworker who is far from God, to join you. If you like board games, post a board game night, and allow nonbelievers and believers to come together over a common interest. If you are into crocheting, invite a friend over, who's far from God, to sit down with you, and teach them your hobby.

My friends put four chairs on their front lawn. In the evenings, they would sit down on their front lawn in their chairs with a cup of tea or pop, and just talked, and as the neighbors passed by, they invited them to sit down and join them.

You and I are not responsible for saving anybody. We are called to scatter seed and water. We are called to share the Gospel in everyday ways, with everyday people. When we remember this, it makes evangelism a lot more fun and a whole lot easier.

God says, "Try it. You might like it." God says, "Try it, and I will do the rest."

Today, my challenge for you is to invite one person that you know, who is far from God, into an activity that you would normally reserve for yourself. I promise you, you will find that outreach has never been so easy or as fun. Today, try it, and share with me how the experiment went.