

Pastoral Update #11

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Date: 29 May 2019

Preacher: Derek Lamont

[0 : 0 0] Hi, this is pastoral number 11 on Friday the 29th of May and I'm not on the Castle East Plainade and I'm not on my little green chair in the church. I'm actually in the back garden of the Mance and took you into this beautiful part of the world. I guess if you're privileged enough to have a garden at this time of lockdown then probably all through Edinburgh the gardens have never looked quite so good and quite so well tended and there's a great verse I just want to share thinking about just for a little bit from Isaiah 61 verse 11 which is for as the soil makes this makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow so the sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all the nations. Now in my tatties here in the back now the tatties are a fine example I tilled the ground cut it ready I got the seeds and I planted them and I covered them and I watered them and

I had nothing to do with their growth whatsoever that happened it just happened and there's nothing I can do to make it go I can't look for goodness sake come on grow quicker or I want you to give me at least 55 potatoes when you're ready it just doesn't work like that and I simply have to sit back and rest and wait for the potatoes to grow and that's really what God's speaking about in Isaiah chapter 61 he's reminding us if we look last Sunday at Paul planted and Apollos watered but it's God who gives the increase and we're reminded of that and there's nothing really that we can do and I just want to encourage you again about that to keep praying to the Lord of the harvest and keep sowing the seeds in the hearts of different people and water that seed by the way you love and care for them and look after them and show them the love of Jesus and I don't think that's just about evangelism I think that's in our own lives as well I think sometimes we feel a bit like we seed potatoes before they come out on top of the ground in the dark nothing seems to be happening it's cold and we don't feel God's presence we don't feel very much alive like anything's happening but we're encouraged to weigh on him and to look forward to feeling the warmth of Sunday again with him so I think there's always lots we can learn from nature from gardens and they're a beautiful reminder to us of what he wants us to do and he wants us as believers to bear his fruit and you know what that fruit is the love the joy the peace the patience the kindness the goodness the gentleness and the self-control and he wants us to have all these that fruit in our lives and we look forward to bearing more and more fruit and living in a place eternally a beautiful garden and with all these things will be just par for the course on every day so continue to pray continue to look for the harvest and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday thanks