

God's Awesome Creation: Abundance

The breakfast table at a friend's house was a feast for sight, smell and taste. It spoke of beauty and abundance. The day before in the light and warmth of the autumn sun, I had harvested the tomato vines and was almost overwhelmed by the abundance of their fruit. The green beans had been like that earlier in the season; every time I looked they had produced more.

Abundance shows up in many places, not just in food. Within a short time the autumn trees have produced an abundance of color, pouring it over the hills and into the valleys. The people in the Caribbean and Florida have had an abundance of hurricanes and storms that produced more wind and rain than they could ever handle. The spruce trees this year are so laden with cones that the tops of the trees are bent and brown- a sign that we might have more snow than we want.

Have you ever thought of abundance as a call to community? When there is more than what we need or can handle individually doesn't that move us to reach out to others? When the garden harvest is ready it helps to have enough people around to share in the harvesting, feasting and preserving. When floods and hurricanes hit, a generous, caring community who share out of their abundance is essential for putting lives back in order.

Jesus told a story about a man who didn't seem to get the connection between abundance and community. He built bigger barns to keep everything for himself but God called him a fool and said, *"This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?"*. So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God (Luke 12: 16-21)

The table of plenty that nature sets for us this fall speaks of beauty and abundance. May we enjoy its richness in a way that builds community and makes us rich in the sight of God.

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