

Sermon Summary – “Taking Ground” with Ps Don McDonell (13 Sept 2026)

The Call to Flourish, Affirm, and Advance

Ps Don opens by lifting the church’s focus toward praise, declaring that “*you’ve got the keys to victory in your hand*”. He celebrates being alive, healed, and back in church after breaking his neck and undergoing 13 hours of surgery, testifying that God is moving globally and the church worldwide is flourishing.

He re-anchors the congregation in the **Verse of the Year**:

“The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”

This flourishing, he says, is not passive—it is preparation for **taking ground**. After a year of teaching on seeds, planting, and flourishing, the church must now step forward into expansion.

1. Vision Builders – A Season of Faith and Sacrifice

Ps Don recounts the early days of Inspire Church—arriving with only their family, hiring the stadium by taking a loan on their home, and planting the church purely on prophetic direction. This sets the tone for Vision Builders: faith, sacrifice, and boldness.

He explains the financial reality: the church runs on a budget of around **\$600,000**, but tithes currently cover only **\$312,000**. The building still carries a **\$2.8 million** mortgage. Vision Builders is the moment to step up and take ground financially.

2. The Heart of Giving – Love, Neighbour, and Affirmation

Ps Don teaches from Mark 12:30–31 on loving God fully and loving our neighbour. He uses Gary Chapman’s *Five Love Languages* to illustrate how people receive love differently, concluding that Inspire Church’s strongest love language is **words of affirmation**.

He leads the congregation in a moment of spoken blessing:

“I bless you in Jesus’ name... You are healed... You are an overcomer.”

He highlights how instantly the room’s **countenance changed**, proving the power of affirmation.

3. Sowing, Reaping, and Spiritual Enthusiasm

Galatians 6:6–10 frames the next section: whatever we sow, we reap. Ps Don warns against weariness and spiritual apathy, reminding the church that worship is for God, not personal preference. Enthusiasm, he says, transforms marriages, work, and worship.

He challenges the church to reject passivity and embrace spiritual fire:

“We didn’t get saved to take up room in church... We are saved to change the world.”

Kingdom Treasure, Generosity, and Radical Obedience

4. The Principles of Treasure

Using Matthew 13:44, Ps Don outlines **three treasure principles**:

1. **Kingdom Values** – What you value determines how you live.
2. **Kingdom Vision** – Without vision, people perish.
3. **Kingdom Investment** – The kingdom advances only when God's people invest.

He asks: *"What defines you? What drives you?"* and teaches from Matthew 6:21:

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

If treasure is misplaced—toward possessions, comfort, or self—your heart follows.

5. Confronting Greed and Western Comfort

Ps Don confronts the Western mindset:

"No one has ever asked me to pray for their greed issue."

He contrasts New Zealand's comfort with revival nations like Vietnam, where churches are debt-free, expanding, and businesses hire only believers.

He warns that the devil convinces people that churches "just want your money," but reminds the congregation that **70% of the world lives on less than \$10 a day** while Western Christians hold unprecedented wealth.

6. God as Source, Not Money

From 1 Timothy 6, he teaches that the love of money leads people away from faith. God—not money—is the source of provision, protection, and purpose.

He shares his own miraculous healing:

"They said you cannot possibly have eight vertebrae cut out and have no pain... but I have zero pain."

This reinforces his conviction that God supplies every need.

7. Radical Giving – The Car Story

Ps Don shares a powerful testimony: God told him to **give away a car** he was trying to sell. He resisted, argued, and struggled—especially after paying for new tyres and a warrant. But after leading a young couple to Christ, God pressed him again: *"When are you going to tell her?"*

He obeyed, gave the car, and later that same day a man approached him at a conference—someone Ps Don had once encouraged at an airport when the man was planning suicide. The man handed him an envelope containing **the exact amount** Ps Don had sacrificed.

Ps Don declares:

"You can never outgive God."

8. The Call to Action – Vision Builders 2026

Ps Don challenges Inspire Church to:

- Give sacrificially
- Break the grip of greed
- Fund a youth van
- Purchase a recovery home for people battling addiction
- Expand training, discipleship, and ministry
- Believe for **\$500,000** in Vision Builders giving
- Believe for the building's **\$2.8 million** debt to be cleared

9. Altar Ministry and Salvation

The service ends with prayer for healing, breakthrough, deliverance from suicidal thoughts, and restoration. He declares:

“The light of God is in you... You light up your workplace, your home, your business.”