

**Monday, April 22, 2024**

One of our members recently shared about their desire to add some Forsythia to their garden. Well, we have a number of Forsythia plants at our house, and I offered some of them for the project. Furthermore, hearing about the need, another member (Jim), who knows much more about plants than I do, offered to do the transplanting.

Well, I was gone when Jim came, but later found out that he had taken about 6-7 plants for the project. I knew we had many plants, and I kind of expected to see some big gaps in our hedges. But when I got home, I couldn't see that anything was missing. So when I questioned Jim about his work, he grinned and said, "I only took the smaller ones. They'll grow just as well, and they're much less work to dig up than the big ones."

I smiled as I thought of how often God must feel that way.

**Ezek 34:16 "I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment."**

Sometimes "church folks" can get big and difficult to work with. They like to have their way, even at the expense of the other sheep. We get full of ourselves, as they say, and become unwieldy. The very thing that is our strength (deep roots) can be our flaw as well. We like to say things like, "We've never done it that way," or "I remember when we used to..." We are resistant to being moved or transplanted, whether figuratively or literally.

But God wants us to be available and moldable. Abram was both available and moveable. The apostle Paul had some pretty deep roots, but his experience on the road to Damascus challenged his complacency. We also need to be like the young prophet Isaiah who when challenged by God declared, "Here am I, send me."