

Envision The Harvest... The Soul-Winners Programme

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The Bible is the textbook on the subject of soul winning. Psalms 126:5-6 is a prophetic word from the Lord to soul winners. It reads: "those who sow in tears will reap with song. He who goes out weeping carrying seed to sow will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him."

There is a programme suggested here- a command, a marching order.

There is a passion that is expressed.

There is a promise

The Soul-Winner's Programme

Let us look at this programme. Who is involved in this programme of sowing and reaping? In verse 6, it is he who goes out weeping. The programme of evangelism is not given to angels. Angels will not go out to sow. It is given to people. People like you and I who will go out to sow and come back rejoicing, praising and giving glory to God.

Why did God not use the angels?

It is because angels know nothing about forgiveness. Angels have never sinned, and therefore, they do not know what it is to be forgiven. You and I, however, were in sin, are forgiven, saved and redeemed, and therefore, we have a message that the angels cannot proclaim-the message of good news. We know what it is like to have walked in sin, in disobedience, in wickedness, in shame, and then to be redeemed, to turn around and find love, peace, joy and redemption in Jesus Christ. This message is for us to proclaim.

Another aspect of this programme is the going. It speaks of an action of going to where the sinners are. Sinners cannot find God. The Scriptures say that they are lost. We are the ones who are to go and find them who are lost and then sow the seed. We are to go forth from the comforts of our environments, which is a physical sacrifice. It calls for the sacrifice of our time, finances and talents. To be involved in evangelism requires putting oneself out.

When the Samaritan Woman met Jesus at the well and knew that she had met the Messiah, she became so excited that she forgot her water pot in her eagerness to return to the city to declare what she had found. We leave things behind when we go forth to tell people about Jesus.

The Bible refers to he who goes out bearing precious seed-this seed is the Word of God. God's Word must be in our hands, head and heart. Let us take this precious seed and sow it. Seed in the basket will not bring a harvest. It must be planted in the ground, in the hearts of men.

The Soul Winner's Passion

The programme of evangelism is also a programme of passion. Verse 5 describes the sowing in tears. There is a motivation-a sowing with tears, a passion for the lost, a weeping for those who live in sin. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, over the death of Lazarus and In the Garden of Gethsemane. The apostle Paul declared that the love of God constrained him to preach the gospel. We should pray and ask God for this passion to burn in our hearts.

General Booth once said that he would like to send all his officer candidates to hell for 24 hours as part of their training in order to make them feel the need to save the lost. J.H. Jowett said in his book, "The gospel of a broken heart begins with the ministry of a bleeding heart" and "as soon as we cease to bleed, we cease to bless".

Nothing should prevent us from taking a tract to our friends, neighbours and colleagues, and talking to them about Jesus Christ. We need to ask God to help us see the privilege and opportunity that is uniquely ours. We do not know how long it will be there. Ezekiel 33 says that God made us watchmen. If we do not tell the people that they live in sin, and they die in their sin when the judgment comes, God requires us to be answerable. On the other hand, if we have shared the gospel with them, and they turn their backs and refuse to accept Jesus Christ, then we are no longer held accountable. It is not a choice that we have. We are held accountable for the people God brings to us, and we must share the gospel with them. We are in a church building for no other reason than evangelism. Money that is spent is spent because evangelism is a serious business. With God, the salvation of souls is a serious business indeed. Every empty seat in church speaks of a soul that should be sitting there. Somebody has to reach the soul that would fill that seat. You need to be challenged to a commitment to evangelism. In our hands is the seed that could spell life to somebody.

The Soul Winner's Promise

When the seed sown finally finds suitable ground-when passion, prayer and labor result in germination of that seed-we will come back rejoicing and bearing sheaves. The Bible promises that those who go and sow shall come back with a promise fulfilled, with rejoicing, praising, and with a song. The Samaritan woman went out, and many came to hear and believed in Jesus. In Luke 8:38-40, the city was opened to welcome Jesus.

Remember, he that winneth souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30)

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