

THE SEED IN YOUR HAND

Psalm 126:6

What can we learn from the psalter's account of sowing and reaping?

I. CONSIDER THE CONTEXT

- This Psalm of Accents was not originally given as a discourse on winning souls, but was a psalm of encouragement to affirm that joy comes after sorrow.

A. TRANSFORMATION (1-3)

- Their unprecedented gloom turned to unexpected good

B. RESTORATION (4)

- A flood of refugees were returning from Babylon.

C. COMPLICATION (5)

- God was restoring Israel but some had to be convinced to return

D. CELEBRATION (6)

- Rejoicing in recruiting success

II. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS (6)

A. REMEMBER ...

1. There are legitimate lessons for soulwinning from the sowing and reaping illustration
2. Sowing examples
 - a. Christ's sower teaching - Matthew 13:3-9
 - b. Paul's planting and watering information - I Cor. 5:6-7

B. GET OUT THERE!

1. Continually go to and fro
 - You go over the same ground repeatedly
2. Evangelism takes place "out there" not "in here"
 - Go out and reach out

C. BE PASSIONATE

1. A passionate concern - See Romans 9:1-5
2. A passionate kindness > Remember these are people not targets!
3. A passionate commitment > You will weep because some will not respond or be restored and redeemed (see Romans 10:1-3)

D. CARRY SEED

1. The right kind
 - The idea is seed for sowing
2. The right preparation
 - Have the seed with you as you walk about

E. BE ENCOURAGED

1. He shall come > An absolute affirmation
2. He shall indeed come > A certainty without any doubt
3. He shall indeed come again > After a time ... give it time

F. BE REJOICING

- One day he comes from the field to the farmhouse and shouts - we have corn!

G. BRING YOUR SHEAVES

- How much you reap is up to God, but if we are faithful, we will be fruitful.

III. CONTEMPLATE FURTHER APPLICATIONS**A. BE FLEXIBLE - I Corinthians 9:19-23**

- Know which seed to plant and how deep to plant it in various situations

B. BE AN ANNOUNCER - Romans 10:13-17

- How will they hear without a proclaimer?

C. BE CREATIVE - Acts 17:23

1. Pass out tracts at the drive through or your garage sale and include them with bill payments
2. Use Christian Greetings
3. Listen for opportunities and pray for sensitivity
4. Pray the gospel at your next family gathering

CONCLUSION: *What's in your hand?*

- Have you sown any seed? (or just talked about gardening?)

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. - Galatians 6:7-9 (NASV)

**You can turn what's in your hand? seed.
to who's in your hand? a convert!**

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