

THE POWER OF SOWING

***Ecc 11:6** In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper; either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*

Just think of a farmer quietly sowing away in the field. This is one of the oldest activities humans have engaged in since time immemorial. The produce of the earth is not like water. We also need water to survive but 72% of the earth is water. All one needed to do was fetch water from a nearby water source – today, all one needs to do is turn on the tap. But the food that emerges from the earth is different. It requires hard labor, diligence and consistency. As cities and urban sprawls continue to grow unabated upwards towards the sky and in every direction, one can forgive some city children who have no clue where their morning cereal comes from. Just consider this example from Ireland.

A lot of kids didn't realize that their breakfast cereal was made from grains that grew in a field", says Richard Burkinshaw, Project Manager of the Kellogg's Origins Programme. Richard attributes this to the fact that 39 per cent of Irish children have never even visited a farm that grows food" (Irish Independent, 24.06.2014). ¹

The report goes on to state, "In fact, ask a child where cereal comes from, and chances are they'll say the supermarket". Thankfully, this ignorance does not discourage the farmer from doing his or her very important work. There is power in sowing – without it there would be a serious food crisis. In the same vein, there is spiritual power in the act of the Christian sowing the seeds of the Gospel. Where would the Christians of this generation or earlier generations be had it not been for the faithful sowing of Christian "farmers" since the Apostles? Farmers know how vital their labor is; there are many jobs society that survive without, but not the farmer's. Similarly, the Christian cannot afford to procrastinate sowing because the job is underappreciated. "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Cor 9:16). Like the farmer, we owe it to the former, present and future generations to sow the seed of the Gospel faithfully. Let us work quietly and behind the scenes to sow the seed of the word of God.

***Luke 4:42** And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.*

¹<https://www.independent.ie/sponsored-features/74-per-cent-of-children-want-to-know-where-their-food-comes-from/30380798.html>

Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Luke 4:44 And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Ecc 11:4 “He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap”. How often have Christians lost an opportunity to bring a soul to Christ because we waited too long, we were too tactical or waited for the best opportunity. We study people’s faces for signs of receptiveness – we are experts at finding excuses for why we should not sow the seeds of the Gospel. Notice the example of the Apostle Paul. He appears to have exploited every opportunity he got. He witnessed to the Roman soldiers on board the ship while he was a captive sailing to Rome, and when the ship was destroyed, he continued to preach to the inhabitants of the island of Malta. “And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. So, when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed” (Acts 28: 8,9). In Athens, Paul witnessed to philosophers, but he did neglect the souls of women either.

Act 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

Act 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Ecc 11:1 “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days”. The seed we sow is our bread – it is precious. We sow our faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and his salvation. Will anyone be so foolish as to cast his bread? Bread here represents the word of God which feeds our souls. Just as the farmers seed will not be lost but yield a great harvest, we will never lose the word of God if we sow it in the hearts and souls of people. The Lord spoke to one woman at the well of Samaria and soon many individuals believed; Philip preached in Samaria, the same place where the Lord already sowed the seed, and many were baptized in Jesus name and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Act 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Act 8:6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

The waters represents the nations. “Cast thy bread upon the waters”. Sow the precious seed of the Gospel and you will find it after many days. Sowing is the quietest and most unassuming work and yet look at the blessings it yields. Yet, farmers are underpaid and appreciated. Farmers have been demonstrating outside parliament in Norway recently for better pay. Do not expect to be appreciated and thanked on this side of heaven for the labor of sowing although the Lord sees the work that you do. Only he will encourage you, as he did the apostle Paul. “Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city” (Acts 18,9,10). I live on a farm. I have often observed the farmer diligently sowing seed not long after the snow disappears around this time in April-May. He does not stop at anything: stones are removed, water puddles are drained and his tractor is fitted with headlights so he can work into the night. The same goes for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember how the Lord sent an angel to free Peter from prison?

Act 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Matthew 13:25 “But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way”. Understand that the enemy is also never idle. He is sowing alongside us; he is more active than Christians and never takes a day off. Our job is not to focus on what the Devil is sowing but sow the seed of the Gospel. Seed are tiny and almost invisible once they are sown in the ground. The same goes for the seed of the enemy: it is only when the plant begins to grow that we realize this was not the seed we sowed. The Lord will deal with the enemy’s seed. We only must make sure the Devil does not fool us into believing he is sowing Gospel seed when he is not. The Lord is soon returning to give the farmers their reward. Work hard, consistently and without observing the weather.