

Be opening your Bibles to Psalm as that Old Testament text will be the basis of our thoughts. (*Psa 126:5-6*) ***They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. {6} He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.***

Someone asked Limon Beecher, a well known preacher of his day this, “Mr. Beecher, you know a great many things. What do you consider to be the greatest thing a person can do or be?” He replied, “The greatest thing is not that one should be a scientist as important as that is or should one be a statesman as important as that is. Nor even as a theologian, as vastly important as that is but the greatest thing of all for one human being to be is a soul winner who brings another human being to Jesus Christ the Savior.”

If a man has a soul, and he has, and that soul can be lost or saved, and it can, then the most important thing a person can do is to bring that soul to Jesus Christ. Every day that we live we ought to be consumed with the desire to bring people to Christ. Now I realize that is not always the case. There are some who do that consistently, and then there are some who do that fairly often. There are others who do that occasionally, but the majorities don't do it at all. It's been estimated that 95% of the members of the church have made no effort to share the gospel with anyone else. You are in one of those categories, but regardless of you past I want to look to the future and tell you with love in my heart, we need to be sowing the seed. (*Matt 9:37-38*)...***The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; {38} Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*** In the passage over in Psalm 126, the psalmist tells us how, why and what happens when we sow. There are basically three things that I want you to see: (1) **the task**, (2) **we must go**, (3) **sow consistently**.

No. 1. I want you to see the task of the soul winner. In this passage we see a comparison between the work of the soul winner and that of a farmer. Reaching out to others is like sowing seeds. Jesus emphasized the same thing in his ministry

over in Matt 13. In fact we refer to that section of scripture as the “*parable of the sower*.” There Jesus talks about a sower scattering his seeds in the field. Soul winning in many ways is like farming. Now that tells us that it is hard work but its not difficult work. My daddy at one time was a farmer and when I was a boy he still farmed a little and that was before they had a tractor. He farmed with a mule named “ole John.” It was hard work to break up the ground and to fertilize and to cultivate those fields. But while it was hard work, it was not difficult work. It was the kind of work that anybody who was willing could do. It didn't require any specialized education or training. Now that was true back in the days of Jesus and even back in the days of the psalmist. Now this reminds us that if we are going to be soul winners, then it's going to require hard work. We are going to have to be willing to invest some time, some effort and some energy into the project, but it is something all of us can do. **IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE, THEN JESUS WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED US TO DO IT.** Now we may do it in different ways and some are more experienced in doing it, but we can all in some way be involved in winning another to Christ.

Let me suggest a place to start. When you get home, take a few minutes and write down four people that you would like to see become a Christian and you place that list somewhere that you will frequently see. If those names are in front of you and reminding you, you will seize the opportunity to mention something to them about Christ or the church. Maybe it's simply an invitation to services. Did you know if you invite enough people to services that some will come. Point is all of us can extend an invitation.

Our text tells us if we are going to be successful in sewing the seed, then there are two things we must do. **First is we must go. {6} *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed.* *He goeth forth*** suggest that we first must be willing to go. The sower who never leaves his house will not ever be able to plant his seed; likewise, the Christian who is not will to go will not sow. The word “go” seems to have been one of the Lords favorite words. It was used some 177 times

in the four gospels. He gave the great commission and said, ***“Go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15).*** In Matt 28 he said, ***“Go and make disciples of all nations.”*** Mark 5:19 Jesus healed that man possessed by demons and said, ***(Mark 5:19) ... Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*** Jesus says, you have got to be willing to go and that was certainly the case with Jesus as well as those New Testament Christians. Gospel begins with GO.

Just because we have a nice facility with carpet on the floor and padded pews doesn't in and of itself bring in the lost. It might attract visiting Christians, but that person out there struggling in the stupors of sin doesn't come because of the building and that sign out front that publicizes the time of services. He comes because of you. WE HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN A “COME AND HEAR RELIGION.” We have been given a “go and tell” religion. You see, the Bible does not command the sinner to come to the church but rather the church to go to the lost and to teach the gospel.

Now a word of caution. When you go, you will meet rejection and if you are not careful, you will get discouraged. People involved in direct sales are taught that you have to go through 15 “no's” before you get a “yes.” I imagine the odds are about the same here. Jesus told his disciples when he sent them out on a limited commission ***(Matt 10:14) And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.*** Paul understood this principle for we read in ***(Acts 13:51) But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.*** So when we try once or twice and are met with rejection, we quit and never try again. We say something like, *“I just can't do that.”* Let me tell you, yes you can. You can go out there and invite and bring someone to where they can hear the truth. So understand, regardless of your experience level, there are going to be more people not interesting than interested. So we need to remember the words of Paul, ***(Gal 6:9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint***

not.

Next, we must “sew consistently.” Look again at verse 6 and notice it says **{6}** *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed.* That expression *bearing precious seed* means leaving a trail of seed. It pictures a farmer going up one row and down the next and where ever he goes, he plants his seed. You know, sowing the seed is the only job that God has given to the farmer. The farmer is not responsible for the growth or the yield of the harvest - that's God's business. It's the job of the farmer to get the seed into the soil. Now the same thing is true for the Christian. Now we may reason that ole so-in-so want be interested. They want pay any attention to my invitation. Well, maybe so, but that's not your problem. The harvest is God's business. Your responsibility is simply to sow the seed. So lets us be people that look for opportunities that come our way. Jesus did.

Jesus tells us in Luke 8:11 that the seed is the word of God, so what we are talking about is getting God's word in front of other people. Now that's a thrilling thing. Sometimes you might go to the store and buy some seed and a while after you're planting the seed never comes up. You finally conclude that the seed must have been bad. But that will not be the case with God's word. As Christians, we ought to be thrilled because the word of God is powerful and productive and when you sew that seed, eventually it's going to produce a harvest. *A preacher just moved and was starting to work for a new congregation and after one of the services, a man approached him and asked if the preacher would go and visit his wife. The preacher agreed and then the man said, “Now you need to understand that my wife is an atheist and doesn't believe in God.” Well, the preacher had already agreed to go so one day in the following week, the preacher and his wife went to visit the man and his wife. When they got there, the woman immediately said, “You need to understand that I am an atheist and I don't like preachers at all but she agreed to give them five minutes. So he went inside and asked the woman, “If you were to die today, would you go to heaven or hell?” She said, “Preacher,*

I'm an atheist - I don't believe in heaven."

The preacher said, "I understand that, but let me ask you another question. Do you know every possible thing that can be known?" She said, "Of course not?" He said, "Alright, do you know half of everything that can be known?" She said, "No, I don't know that much either." He said, Well, let's be generous and assume that you know half of everything that can be known so over here we have the half that you do know and over here we have the half that you don't know. Now could it be that God exist over here in this half that you do not know?" She said, "Well, I never thought of that, but I guess it's possible." The preacher then told the woman, "If you are not really sure, then you are an "agnostic" and not an atheist.

Then he asked her another question. He asked, "Are you an honest agnostic or a dishonest agnostic?" "What do you mean by that?" she asked. He said, "An honest agnostic is someone who says I don't know if God exist or not, but I would like to find out. A dishonest agnostic is the person who says I don't know if God exist or not and I don't care." "I guess I'm an honest agnostic," she replied, "because if God does exist, then I'd like to know. So the preacher reached into his pocket and he pulled out a little pocket New Testament and he said, "Now I'm going to leave this with you and I'd like for you to do me a favor. He said I'd like for you to read one chapter a day in the gospel of John. She said, "Preacher it want do any good, I don't believe in the Bible." He said, "I understand that, but I would still like for you to do it and as you read consider who this person claim to be and what should I do about it? Now there are 21 chapters in the book of John so in three weeks, I want to talk to you again and see how things are going." Then the preacher left. The next Sunday morning, the preacher noticed that woman was with her husband in the audience and when the invitation was extended, she came forward with tears in her eyes and said, "Preacher, I started reading and I couldn't put it down. Now I believe that Jesus is God's son and I want to become a Christian

There is power in the book. When Paul said in Rom 1:16 that the gospel is

the power of God unto salvation, he knew what he was talking about. (**Heb 4:12**) ***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*** The word of God is powerful enough to melt the hardest of hearts.

Understand too that sewing the seed will be an emotional roller coaster. (5) ***They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.*** The effort of sowing will bring disappointment as already alluded. So you sow in tears, but it will result into a joyful harvest. There is not greater thrill experienced by man than to witness a person that you influenced in becoming a Christian. That message is emphasized in verse 6.

There are those that you know who needs to hear the gospel. They need a little word of encouragement. They need to know that someone cares about them and their soul. They need someone who will be willing to stop by and pick them up and carry them to worship services together. Right now inviting is easy because you can say, "I'd like to invite you to services to hear out new preacher. Will you go if I come by and pick you up?"

Has the seed ever been planted in your heart? Have you studied the gospel message to see what God expects of you to be saved? (**Heb 5:9**) ***And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*** Have you obeyed the gospel? That entails H,B,R,C,B. If you are a Christian but have wandered away, then you need to come home and become involved in doing the Lord's work.

(**Psa 126:5-6**) ***They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. {6} He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*** If we can assist you in a public way, we invite you to come as we stand and sing.