

Week 13

Can you see a time in your life when sowing and reaping took place? To be exact; when sowing the gospel in your life took place, who sowed the gospel, a pastor, a parent a friend? Who shared the truth of the gospel with you, sowed into your life? Now think with me, who was the reaper? The gospel sowed, it ripened, that is, you came to understand it and a “reaper” came along whose gospel message found you ripe to respond and you accepted eternal life as a gift. Do you do share the gospel? I hope you will find this an encouragement to labor for the LORD.

Jesus said;

V36 “Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal, so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together”.

Are you receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life? Here is a promise for you, God notices the work you do for Him and He rewards. Just as Jesus was as satisfied by offering the woman living water, working for the Lord in the harvest will satisfy you. I am sure a spiritual harvest will be even more satisfying than a natural harvest. There will be rejoicing in heaven because of the sewing and reaping here on earth.

V39-42

Notice here the various ways the Holy Spirit works in the lives of people. Some believed because of the testimony of the woman and some believed because Jesus preached to them. Many Samaritans, who were looking for the Messiah, came to know that Jesus was the Savior of the world and it shows us clearly that He came for all of us, not just the Jews. Many Samaritans were saved even though He did no signs and the Jews rejected Him, in the face of all the evidence He presented to them. “He came to His own and His own did not receive Him”. John 1:11

V43-44

It is terrible to consider how little some pastors are respected by their congregations for whom they labor for years. Do you pray for your pastor?

V45

Here is a reference to the signs Jesus was doing and to the purpose John stated in writing his gospel- “that you might see the signs and believe and have eternal life”. Jesus had evidently performed many miracles or signs while He was in Jerusalem for the Passover, which we mentioned earlier. This verse shows that His fame was growing more widespread.

46-47

No doubt the miracle of changing the water into wine in Cana of Galilee, had been discussed all over town, the people knew He was a special person with special powers. So the affliction of his son's illness lead this man to Christ.

Someone has said, "Affliction is God's medicine", through it He teaches lessons that can be learned no other way. Trials, afflictions, our sickness, our financial difficulties, do you just want it to be over? Did you ever think about the benefit affliction can confer on the soul?

The illness and suffering of his son lead this royal official to Jesus with the final result of not only healing physically but also spiritually, he believed and as a result of the healing his entire household believed. That means the benefit of his son's physical suffering resulted in eternal life for all the people in his family. If the child had never been ill, that family would have died in their sins.

What a perfect example of the outworking of Romans 8:28; and we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

By contrast, prosperity and worldly comfort is what we all naturally desire; but losses and crosses are better for us, if they lead us to Christ. I think thousands in heaven will agree with David when he said in Psalms 119:71, it was good for me that I was afflicted. There we will see that some of the losses of God's people were eternal gains.

V51-53

Now it is the next day, the royal official is still walking home, did he have regrets about just leaving Jesus, evidently not.

I pray God will help us to gain this kind of faith. Just make the request, leave in Jesus Hands, He will do it, He is able. The royal official was the type of man Jesus later called "blessed" in this gospel, "He did not see but he believed". Jesus said "Blessed is he who believes even though he has not seen". Of course this includes you, if you have believed but not yet seen Jesus.

This government official not only believed Jesus could heal, he also obeyed and went home, demonstrating his faith. He did not ask any questions, he wasn't worried that he was 20 miles away from his son. Friend, don't just

say that you believe Jesus can take care of your problems, act like you believe it.

V54

Healing this child was the second sign recorded by John, the first was changing the water into wine. Remember, John 20:30-31 Jesus miracles or signs pointed people who witnessed them (that includes us from afar) to the fact that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God and believing, they were given eternal life. Have you believed?

John 5:1

Some months have passed and here we find Jesus again in Jerusalem and is He in the temple teaching? No, He went to the local mission where sick people were left when no one wanted or was able to care for them. Have you ever visited a shelter for the homeless or sick? These people were not the cream of society; perhaps they were dirty, deformed, forgotten, sick, perhaps despised.

V3-5

In all the multitudes of sick and suffering people, Jesus picked out this friendless man, because He knew him. His family who no longer were able or did not want to care for him had put him there; he spent 38 years lying there, waiting to be healed, no doubt all hope was gone. It is difficult to imagine more intense suffering than being abandoned for a lifetime because you are helpless.

V6

When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" Isn't it unusual to ask him if he wanted to be healed? We will have to wait until verse 14 to get an explanation for this.

The man seemed to need to explain why he had been there so long. Jesus offered to help him, but not in the way he expected, isn't that what often happens?

V8

Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your pallet and walk." Immediately the man became well, picked up his pallet and began to walk. He loves this man, He liberates him, from all the despair and hopelessness of his life, just like He did for the Samaritan woman and Jesus is the only hope.

This is the third sign recorded by John, are you counting and considering the impact and variety of these signs?

John's commentary-it was the Sabbath on that day.

V10

God had invited the Jews to rest from work one day a week, the Sabbath, the day God rested and set apart or made holy. The Pharisees considered themselves an elite group whose job it was to control the people with a huge burden of rules and regulations, all their own additions to God's law.

Jesus did keep God's law perfectly, make no mistake about it, however He did not keep all the rules the Pharisees made up and that is why they constantly accused Him of being a lawbreaker.

Why couldn't they enjoy and be happy for this poor man? They were interested in maintaining their power and privilege. The new freedom of this man threatened their power and control.

There is nothing in God's law about carrying a mat on the Sabbath. Are you relying for salvation on oral traditions and principles, which do not come from scripture? It's easy to find out.

V15-16

No doubt the man thought the leaders were sincerely interested in knowing about Jesus, but his identifying of Jesus began the persecutions, which eventually lead to Jesus crucifixion. John traced their subsequent efforts to harass, humiliate and kill Jesus back to the conflict of who was in charge of the Sabbath.

V17

Genesis 2:2 says God rested from the creation on the Sabbath but He did not rest from sustaining the creation and providing for the daily needs of all His creatures. He has done continually since the creation and if he were to stop all nature would stand still. In other words, God works and continues to work and so does the Son. God the Father continues to cause the sun to rise and the God the Son heals. How do you keep the Sabbath?

"remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy", Exodus 20:8. Ask God how He would have you obey this command.

5:18

The Jews realized Jesus was claiming equality with God, which they saw as blasphemy, carrying the death penalty. He was constantly correcting those who kept on misunderstanding Him.

Notice the reasons listed for the Jews seeking to kill Jesus;

1. They said He was breaking the Sabbath, He was claiming His authority over the Sabbath
2. He was calling God His Father
3. Thus making Himself equal with God.

He was claiming to be God; He wanted them to understand it. Someone who was just “a good man” or a “great teacher” would never make this claim.

Jesus is the virgin born, Son of God. We will discuss this more next week.