

Realizing the Dream

March 3, 2019

Scripture:

- [1] Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.
- [2] Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.
- [3] If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.
- [4] He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-4

From the Introduction:

The thought of taking proper care of what God has given us is very important, and yet we see that too great an emphasis on care can be crippling. Imagine the farmer who refused to plant because of the uncertainty the summer had in store for him. To receive a harvest he must plant seeds, to experience a harvest we must do the same.

Outline:

- I. "He who observes the wind will not sow."
 - A. There is a time for _____.
 - B. When sowing time comes, we cannot sit idly by _____ for the ideal moment to plant.

- II. "He who regards the clouds will not reap."
 - A. There is a time for _____.
 - B. When harvest time comes, we cannot sit idly by _____ the skies and waiting for the ideal moment.

- III. The times for each can be uncertain
 - A. These times are uncertain for us, but God _____ the times and seasons.
 - B. If we are overly cautious with what God has called us to do then we are doomed to _____.

Remember:

[37] Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” -- Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)

Reflect:

“Plow a little farther, dig a little deeper, sow a little greater, pray a little harder, love a little sweeter, it’s harvest time! ---
Unknown

Seek:

Jesus reminds us in the Matthew passage that true harvest laborers are those who “pray earnestly” to be sent into the harvest field. In these uncertain times, how do Jesus’ words speak to you?

Share:

The writer of Ecclesiastes implores his readers to “Cast your bead upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.” What expectations do you have for God’s return of His blessings in what you share with others? Do you believe your expectations to be attainable?

Serve:

Pastor Mark stated, “If we are overly cautious with what God has called us to do, then we are doomed to failure.” What “chances” are you willing to take in serving Him in order to “Realize the Dream”?

Pray:

Ask God to show you where He desires you to cast the truth of His word. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you onto the waters or into the harvest fields of life, and live in expectation of an abundant return.