

“Go Into The Fields!” – A Call for Sacrificial Service (Pt. 1)

“²⁵ Meanwhile, the older son was in the field.” - Luke 15:25.

Apart from being faithful and obedient, the older son was also a hard worker in his father’s household. Unknowing to him, while the other servants made merry and celebrated the prodigal son’s return, the older son laboured in his father’s vineyard.

1. A Call to Service

This is a call for sacrificial service unto God. As children of God, we are all called into service for Him. In addition to our worldly ambitions, each one has a divine purpose which involves using our special gifts and talents to share the good news of the gospel with others. Yes, like the older son we should be labouring in the various ‘fields’- wherever we may be in this season of our lives - and be ushering souls away from the kingdom of darkness and welcoming them into the kingdom of God. This is wisdom.

Proverbs 11:30 says, *“³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.”*

Remember, it is through our lifestyles, as depicted by our words and actions, that others can experience the love of God, and the mercy and comfort of His Son Jesus. We are the ‘mouthpiece, hands and feet’ of God and Jesus Christ on this earth. There are countless persons who are lost and who are waiting on us to share the good news of the kingdom of God with them. John 4:35 reminds us:

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

This scripture is the basis of our discussion.

2. Don’t Procrastinate!

There are always good reasons and excuses why we need to finish something else before we begin to labour for God. These reasons may pertain to our education, work, family and loved ones. Also, we become so busy with the ‘hustle and bustle’ of life that we do not make enough time for God, and do not find the time to fulfil His divine purpose. In short, we procrastinate. It is like saying, “God can wait until I finish my studies” or “God can wait until I retire at 60.”

The harvest is already ripe, and we just need to be AVAILABLE and READY in order for God to use us for His honour and glory. If we continue to procrastinate we would miss the seasons of reaping that God has in store for our lives. The harvest will perish because the labourers are few, and the lost ‘souls’ will ultimately go to hell.

Always remember that the work we do for God will never be in vain:

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." -1 Corinthians 15:58

Be persistent and persevere in the work of the Lord, and do not procrastinate, and soon you will receive the reward for your works! Lives will be transformed before your eyes, and many shall turn to Jesus because of your sacrificial service unto God. There is no greater reward under the heavens than to see a soul that was once dead...alive, and one that was lost, find a new life in Christ.

3. Beware of Idolatry!

Let's make time today for God. Let's give Him the highest priority in our lives that He deserves. In so doing Revelation 2:4 should not apply us:

"⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

God frowns upon us, and hold it against us, if we don't make Him our first love. Why? Because something or someone else is occupying first place. That person or thing has become an idol in my life, and idolatry is a sin. Moreover, according to Ephesian 5:5, the idol worshipper cannot inherit the kingdom of God:

"For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

4. Use Your "Eyes" and Not Your "I-s"

Shift your focus. Most persons are constantly pre-occupied with selfish ambitions, where the main focus is on getting rich and enjoying the niceties of life. We should never see our expensive cars, big houses, academic qualifications, expensive clothes and so on as life's trophies that signify our status and success. It is God who blesses us with our education, job, wealth, loved ones, house, cars, and other wonderful things in this life, not only to enjoy, but also to use them to be a blessing to others. Our worldly possessions should never become our idols. It should never always be about "Me, myself and I."

Instead, let's lift our eyes and examine the fields of life, and use our earthly possessions to make a difference in the lives of others, for Jesus. In so doing we lay up heavenly treasures for myself. I

prayerfully meditate on the Matthew 6:19-21:

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

5. Look Unto the Fields

Look unto the fields of life, and recognize that there are lost souls doomed to hell who need our labour of love and compassion to show them the way to Jesus. Yes, we need to spare a thought for the lost, poor and needy, and prayerfully ask God to show us ways to alleviate their sufferings, as we demonstrate the love of Christ to them. Here are few scriptures which speak to the poor:

“Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.” - Proverbs 14:31

*“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”
— Proverbs 19:17*

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”- Proverbs 22:9

6. The Labourers Are Few

There is so much work to be done, yet the labourers are so few. Jesus said in Luke 10:2-3:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves....”

As we labour, let us not worry about those who may not listen to our message, nor appreciate our work. For it is only by the conviction of the Holy Spirit that people will accept Jesus. John 16:8 states:

“He (The Holy Spirit) will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”

Are you available today to be used by Jesus? If the answer is yes, now is the time to stand out and let your light shine.

7. Stand Out and Let Your Light Shine

The older son was not part of the crowd. He stood up and was counted as one of the few that was out in the field working. In life there will be a defining moment in each of our lives where one begins to flow in his or her unique divine call and purpose. It will involve stepping out of the ‘crowd.’ It will mean coming out from the shadows of being inconspicuous and being a light for Christ! A eureka moment! All that is required is to obedience to the voice of God and His Word. Yes, there is always a cost in being a disciple of Christ, and one must first count the cost. Luke 14: 27-29 examines the cost of being a labourer in the kingdom:

“ 27 And whoever does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. 28 Which of you, wishing to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost to see if he has the resources to complete it? 29 Otherwise, if he lays the foundation and is unable to finish the work, everyone who sees it will ridicule him,...”

But rest assured, as you continue to labour in God's kingdom and seek His kingdom, He will provide. We are reminded of this in Matthew 6:33 below:

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Be blessed.

Heavenly Father,

"Father, today I answer your call for sacrificial service unto You. Your Word declares that 'he who wins souls is wise.'" Bless me with wisdom today, O Lord. Father, forgive me for not heeding Your call for service in the past, and I rebuke that spirit of procrastination in my life. Forgive me for not making You my first priority, and for placing other things and people ahead of You. I declare that every altar of idolatry that has been set up in my life, be burnt by the fire of heaven, in Jesus' name. Help me to recognize that You have blessed me with good things only to be a blessing to others, and not to hoard up earthly treasures for myself and my loved ones. From today onwards, I lay up heavenly treasures in in your kingdom. Also, help me to be obedient to Your Word as I lift up my eyes and see the full harvest, and the need of others for the love of Christ. Help me to stand out and to be a light for Christ in this dark world. I thank You for boldness, courage, strength and unconditional love. In Jesus' mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen."

Memory Verse:

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise." - Proverbs 11:30.