

Preacher's Pen points

The Blessings of Evangelism



John four is a wonderful chapter on evangelism. I've often turned there to use Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well to illustrate some practical teaching techniques in reaching the lost. But let's take a moment to look at the aftermath of that conversation. After the departure of the Samaritan woman Jesus revealed to His disciples four important things about the work of teaching others.

Evangelism is satisfying.

The disciples had gone into town to buy food and they were astounded by Jesus' statement that He had *"food they did not know about."* (Jn. 4:32). As usual Jesus spoke spiritually while the apostles understood him physically. Jesus clarified, *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work (Jn. 4:34)* For Jesus, doing God's work supplied nourishment for His inner being; and so it will do for us! Teaching the lost and seeing them saved will provide a spiritual satisfaction like nothing else.

Evangelism is urgent.

Jesus urged the disciples to see the immediate opportunities that lay in front of them and seize the moment: *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."* (Jn. 4:35). We often plan for evangelism in the future; but Jesus urges us to look for the opportunities that exist now. Find that person who you can invite now! Find that person who is willing to study the Bible now. Every day presents opportunities in our contact with people to say a word of encouragement to the lost.

Evangelism is rewarding.

Jesus motivated the disciples by telling them that God would reward those who do His work! Their work in His vineyard does not go unnoticed or unrewarded: *"Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal"* (Jn. 4:36). Those rewards are both immediate and future. We have the joy and satisfaction of seeing someone's life change for the better now; but we also have the hope of joining with them in praising God before His throne in heaven. Imagine what it will be like to see someone in heaven that you helped to bring there!

Evangelism is unifying.

Those who work together to save souls are joined in a spiritual bond that will not easily be separated. First there is shared effort that develops as we work together in teaching. As Jesus put it, *"one sows and another reaps"* (Jn. 4:37). Second there is a shared joy when someone responds to the message. *"He who sows and he who reaps...rejoice together"* (Jn. 4:36). Disciples who together focus on the outside world with the purpose of evangelism will find their sense of unity strengthened.

Come for training!

I am happy that we are able to learn from Brother Comer about evangelism and we anticipate in the days to come the wonderful blessings that will come when we dedicate ourselves to the salvation of souls! Make it your goal to attend each of our studies together and learn how you can more effectively reach others. Then purpose to follow up by putting the teaching into practice!

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)