

“Cast Your Bread Upon The Waters”

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 (v. 1— C : .)

➡ The cliché is: “What goes around, comes around.”

This was the practice of the Egyptian farmers along the Nile River. In the spring the Nile would overflow its banks and flood the valleys. A farmer would then cast his seed on the top of the flood water. When the river receded back to its banks, the seed settled down in the rich soil that was left behind. Weeks later a bountiful crop was harvested.

Let’s make a N.T. application of this text for us today...

I. The REQUIREMENT— C ...”

➡ INVESTMENT ALWAYS PRECEDES DIVIDENDS. Obviously, no casting of seed, no reaping of fruit!

A hiker was thirsty for a drink came upon an abandoned house. There he found a pump, and proceeded to pump, but no water came forth. Then he saw a small jug with a cork at the top and a note attached. The note said to pour the contents of the jug into the pump to prime it. At first the thirsty man was tempted just to drink the water in the jug, but he decided to follow the instructions. It worked and the pump brought forth a satisfying drink of water. Before going his way, he refilled the jug with water for the next thirsty person. He added to the note, "Believe me, it works. You have to give before you can get anything back."

A. The BREAD (seed) is the Word of God (Mt. 4:4; Luke 8:11).

- Isaiah 55:10-11— F

- B. The WATERS are multitudes of people (Rev. 17:15—
 ... , , ,
).
- C. The PORTION (v. 2). Seven is God’s perfect number. Eight is many in number. We must give out the “bread” to as many people as possible because we don’t know what evil times lie ahead.

II. The RETURN —

- A. The SURENESS of the return— HAL
 ➔ One preacher said, “When your bread comes back, it will come back buttered!
- B. The SEASON of the return —
 ➔ *“in due season, we will reap if we faint not.”*

In the hand of one of the mummies found in a pyramid, was discovered a bulbous root. It was planted and grew and bloomed a beautiful flower after having been buried for over a thousand years.¹

So may the seed of the word of God spring up after many years. The Gospel seed was sown in my heart in 1963, but the Word did not germinate until 1967.

III. The RESOLVE (vs. 4-6).

- A. Verse 4— Don’t wait for ideal circumstances. Don’t make excuses. We must get the Gospel bread out in spite of difficult circumstances (wind and clouds). We must walk by faith.
- B. Verse 6— Keep putting out the seed while you are young (- ”) and when you are old (”).
- C. Leave the results with God. It is God who gives the increase.

A couple of years ago, A P released a study done by an agricultural school in Iowa. It reported that to pro-

¹ *The Journal of Education for Upper Canada*, By Adolphus Egerton Ryerson, John George Hodgins, Adam Crooks Volumes 7-8, March, 1855, p. 48.

duce 100 bushels of corn from one acre of land—in addition to the many hours of the farmer’s labor—required 4,000,000 pounds of water; 6,800 pounds of oxygen; 5,200 pounds of carbon; 160 pounds of nitrogen; 125 pounds of potassium; 75 pounds of yellow sulfur; and other elements too numerous to list. In addition to these things, which no man can produce, rain and sunshine at the right time are critical. It was estimated that only 5% of the produce of a farm can be directly attributed to the efforts of man. If we were honest, we’d have to admit the same is true in producing spiritual fruit.

SUMMATION: Isaiah 32:20 says, *B* -

. Who will join me on a G.R.O.W. team to sow the bread of life along the waters/ peoples of Kitsap County for the next 12 months?