



The Seed and The Sower

You have been commissioned to tell your story!

I was speaking at an open-air crusade in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Billy Graham was to speak the next night and had arrived a day early. He came incognito and sat on the grass at the rear of the crowd. Because he was wearing a hat and dark glasses, no one recognized him.

Directly in front of him sat an elderly gentleman who seemed to be listening intently to my presentation. When I invited people to come forward as an open sign of commitment, Billy decided to do a little personal evangelism. He tapped the man on the shoulder and asked, "Would you like to accept Christ? I'll be glad to walk down with you if you want to." The old man looked him up and down, thought it over for a moment, and then said, "Naw, I think I'll just wait till the big gun comes tomorrow night." Billy and I have had several good chuckles over that incident. Unfortunately, it underlines how, in the minds of many people, evangelism is the task of the "Big Guns," not the "little shots."

Source: Leighton Ford, Good News is for Sharing, 1977, David C. Cook Publishing Co., p. 67.

You cannot hire someone to accomplish the tasks that the Lord has given specifically to you! Think about that for a while. You can hire a roofer to do some back-breaking work in the hot summer. You can hire a tax preparer about a month and a half from now to deal with the forms and schedules. But if the Lord wants you to tell His story to someone, you can't go to a resume database and search for a qualified candidate to do your job for you.

Scripture

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Discovery Questions

1. What is the most remarkable part of verse 17? You might expect the first action, but not the second. How could they do that?

2. From verse 18, can you tell whether the things that Christ is about to say are optional? How did you determine your answer?
3. Verse 19 is pretty explicit on the goal that we have been commissioned for. How do you believe that disciples are made today? Why do some think that becoming a disciple of Christ is possible without accepting the work Christ has done on our behalf?
4. Based on verse 19, do you think Baptism is optional? Have you been baptized as a believer? If you haven't, please call the church to schedule a time.
5. In verse 20, Christ gives a command and a promise. Where do you think you will find a record of those things He taught them to obey?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for providing Your Spirit for us. Open my ears to hear, my heart to obey, and my hands to distribute Your blessings to others.
- Help me, Lord, to seize the opportunities that You place before me. Let the seed fall onto good ground where it will grow from now to eternity.
- Teach me, Lord, to do Your will without questioning. Establish within me a pattern of obedience. Let me get past the elementary questions of "Should I go to church this Sunday?" "Is this sufficient for the collection?" "Do I really have to be baptized?" and obey you with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- God, please continue speaking to me. Draw me into Your presence and grant me Your joy each and every day of my life. Amen.