

3. The reward will be chiefly in the future.

When the Lord of the harvest gives us his commendation and our welcome, he knows of our sowing and of our reaping. The world may not know of all of our toil and all of our anxiety, or it may never hear of us, but the Lord of the harvest will know.

He will reward us for desires, the things we do, the things we try to do. He will reward David for wanting to build the temple as well as Solomon for building it.

4. The reward will be everlasting.

For all of those that sow, for all of those that reap, they will receive a crown of righteousness, and shine as the stars for ever and ever.

Intro. The disciples had left (Jesus reclining) by Jacob's well while they went to a neighboring city to buy food. They returned to find him (at work again). Thus we come to an introduction of the law of spiritual work. We're well acquainted with the laws of physical work.

I. Spiritual work is refreshing to the soul and body.

Verse 31-34.

Upon offering Jesus food, he said, "I have food that ye know not of."

Verse 33 Did someone bring him something to eat? during our absence? They could not understand off hand.

Verse 34 - My food - on a mission and the burden of my life is God's will. He never doubted that the father had sent him. We all know the power of the body over the mind, and the mind over the body. If we love spiritual work, it will help us, not only in soul, but in health.

The (satisfaction) of the spiritual overshadows the desire of the flesh, that is, we forget all about bread, when we really love spiritual work.

It's like a boy who loves to (play ball) rather than eat. His desire is overshadowed.

(Learn to love) spiritual work. Dr. Scarborough says, the only way to learn to preach is by preaching. We learn to do spiritual work by doing it. When we become Christians we are not able immediately to teach a Sunday School class, or to lead in public prayer, but we learn by doing.

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II. Spiritual work says that there is a time for sowing and reaping. Verse 35

The law tells us that we have (seasons) in the spiritual sphere, just as there are in farming, we sow wheat at a certain time of the year, and then comes the season for harvesting.

Jesus here in this verse (passing by a cornfield) probably his disciples talked of 4 months until the harvest.

Whiteness - dead ripe. Jesus seems to say in this idea "The fields will be sacrificed, these fruits wasted, unless the fruit is gathered in. The spiritual application is this, (souls) are ripe, and these souls will be lost unless they are reaped. It is (late summer) and the need intensifies the necessity of work. The reapers must do instant service.

Of course, we believe he was speaking of the (Samaritans) who could already be seen as the fields white for harvest. And he is saying, the harvest is always ripening,--it is sad to see people in unbelief. We have been living in a time of eclipse and a lot of people brought into our churches are not rooted in Christ. A lax discipline of church members, a (low state of religious living). There ought to be a revival in our churches all of the time, however, the current will not always be the same.

III. Spiritual work links all the workers in unity. Vs. 36-37

He tells us here that (one) reapeth and soweth. He may be thinking in terms of the sowing of John the Baptist in preparing the way. In other words we clasp hands as sowers and reapers.

A good illustration is that of the (family). The children inherit the toil of their father. One sows, another reaps. This is true in practical inventions. We owe a great deal to the men of the past. In fact, we stand on their shoulders.

We look (at the city) with all of its vice and its evil and sit down and say, "What can I do?" We should become conscious that we are not working alone, but we can feel that we are part of a mighty force of workers.

The (Sunday school lesson) is studied around the world by thousands of people. In spiritual work we are linked together.

You can help (your pastor) We often say, it is good to get a preacher who can draw a crowd, but we can help our pastor by being in our place at the services, by bringing others. A good illustration of this is (General Lee) at White Sulphur Springs, Va. A Presbyterian was preaching that day, he was an Episcopalian, he came in late for the service. It was revealed later that he was outside inviting those men who were standing around saying, "We're going to have a worship service in a certain room, Won't you come in?"

We can be (good listeners) We can talk about what is said and repeat to someone who had not the opportunity of hearing. Spurgeon used to request his wife and his Sunday School teachers to (hunt illustrations) for him, to write them down and give them to him and sometimes in his sermon he would use them, therefore they were helping other people. Christ sees the Samaritans streaming forth to meet him and there is no reason for delay.

IV. Spiritual work has rich rewards. Verse 38

He that reapeth and soweth receiveth wages.

1. The reward is partly in the (present)
We have the joy of rejoicing with the converted soul.

2. The reward of success.
It is not vain, we may feel sometimes as though our work is useless. Sometimes we go away feeling that we have been a complete failure in this spiritual work, but somehow, (it does good to somebody.)

(If your heart is in it) you do not know what you can do, and you can promote your own spirituality when you try to save others.