

Faiths Response to the Poor in Spirit

Matthew 9:36-38 (NASB 2020) Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

John 4:35-36 (NASB 2020) Do you not say, 'There are still four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that the one who sows and the one who reaps may rejoice together.

I. The Mission of the Church

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB 2020) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15-18 (NASB 2020) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. The one who has believed and has been baptized will be saved; but the one who has not believed will be condemned."

Luke 24:45-49 (NASB 2020) Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "So it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Acts 1:8 (NASB 2020) but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NASB 2020) And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ;

II. What is hindering us?

Not a priority

***Luke 15:4 (NASB 2020)** "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the other ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NASB 2020) So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Proverbs 11:30 (NASB 2020) The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life. And one who is wise gains souls.

Opposition:

Matthew 10:16-17 (NASB 2020) "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves. But be on guard against people, for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues;

1 Thessalonians 2:18 (NASB 2020) For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and Satan hindered us.

Matthew 16:17-18 (NASB 2020) And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

Rejection:

Romans 1:16 (NLT) For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

John 12:42-43 (NLT) Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

Matthew 10:32-34 (NASB 2020) "Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before people, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Jesus links public confession with eternal acknowledgment. Fear of rejection may lead to silence, but faith leads to bold confession of Christ.

III. What will cause one to win souls

Love:

Matthew 22:37-39 (NASB 2020) And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'"

Romans 5:5 (NASB 2020) and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Gratitude:

Psalms 107:2 (NKJV) Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

1 Peter 2:9 (NASB 2020) But you are A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

John 15:8 (NKJV) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Winning souls is one of the highest forms of spiritual fruitfulness. True disciples bring others to Jesus, bringing glory to God through lives transformed by His grace.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB 2020) but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect;

IV. The blessings of soul-winning

Luke 15:7 (NASB 2020) I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

When you help lead someone to Christ, you share in the joy of heaven itself. There's a special, indescribable joy that fills the heart of a believer who sees a soul saved — the joy of participating in God's redemptive work.

Daniel 12:3 (NASB 2020) And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

God promises eternal recognition for soul winners. Their influence doesn't fade — it shines eternally because souls are eternal.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (NASB 2020) For who is our hope, or joy or crown of pride, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? Or is it not indeed you? For you are our glory and joy.

Proverbs 11:25 (NLT) The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

When you pour into others by sharing the Gospel, God refreshes and strengthens your own faith. The more you give spiritually, the more you receive.

Romans 10:14-15 (NASB 2020) How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Matthew 25:21 (NLT) "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

Winning souls brings the deep satisfaction of knowing you've pleased the Lord. Nothing compares to hearing His commendation for a life that multiplied His kingdom.