

THE COMPASSION OF SOUL WINNING!

"They that sow in tears shall reap joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Psalms 126:5-6

Weeping, tears, heaviness, heart felt sorrow, travail, and compassion toward the lost are some of the things that should characterize the soul winner. A soul winner is not someone that just passes out tracts, or "works" at soul winning.

To be a soul winner one has to have a soul-winners heart, and feel his responsibility to the unsaved ones all around him. I don't think there is any question that we are surrounded by multitudes of people who are totally unconcerned about the destiny of their soul.

Many people are dropping into eternity without knowing where they came from, or why they are here, or where they are going when they die. More than that, they don't care that they don't know. People are hardened in their hearts about eternity. Why is that so?

One brother said *"if there is no weeping there will be no sowing, and if there is no sowing there will be no rejoicing."* I will submit to you, that if the soul of man is worth Christ dying for, then surely the souls of our friends and loved ones are worth weeping for. When is the last time we went sowing, let alone with tears? I ask you, where is the compassion of the saints today?

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none."

Ezekiel 22:30

God said "I was looking for a man, but I found none." God was looking for someone who would weep and travail, one who would cry out for mercy against his judgment. He was looking for a man and found none.

"Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them, I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath, their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God." Ezekiel 22:31

I wonder if God isn't looking for someone today to stand in the gap? I wonder, if Jesus comes to your prayer closet day after day, night after night, only to find it empty. You wonder why God won't move, and God wonders why you won't break.

COMPASSION IS LOST

Today there is a need for compassionate leaders, men and women of God who know what it is to weep and have compassion for the lost. The word "compassion", however, is almost lost in our modern day Christian vocabulary. We like to key on words like "joy", "peace", "happiness", and "fun". Christians, more than any other people or group on the face of the earth have the greatest responsibility. If we are saved, then the evangelization of the lost is our responsibility.

The lost can not save themselves, even if they wanted to. They need someone to come and minister the gospel to them, to break the yoke from their necks. Those that are captive and bound by the chains of sin need someone to set them free. They that are blinded and walk in darkness need someone to guide them to the light.

Many times we have seen that the witnessing job is something the youth group does on Saturday night so they themselves can stay out of trouble. Have we lost our sense of responsibility to God for weeping and travail for the lost? It stands to reason that sinners will never realize the jeopardy their souls are in, as long as the saints of God, who supposedly realize the consequences for those who die in their sins, stand by with no grief and no compassion.

Oh, we know the bible. We know it from Genesis to Revelations and many of us know it well. However, we lack compassion. In our heads, we liken ourselves to Paul the apostle, but in our hearts we're like Judas. We have the right head theology, but because our hearts have grown cold and indifferent to the gospel, we're actually guilty of treason. The sinners will never be burdened for themselves, if they feel no burden in us.

HAS COLDNESS CREPT INTO YOUR HEART?

Modernism doesn't start with the denial of the deity of Christ. Modernism starts with a cold heart, a heart that can sit idly by while friends and neighbors rush headlong into hell. Modernism starts when we can go to church and shout and rejoice, but then walk right out of church and talk about our vacation, our plans and other trivial and temporal things.

Has your compassion turned into complacency? How can we, who call ourselves Christians, have so little compassion for those who will surely drop into a place where the horror and pain is unimaginable? What kind of compassion do you hold in your heart as you see those all around you dying without Jesus Christ?

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalms 34:18

King David cries... ***"the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, oh God, Thou wilt not despise."* Psalms 51:17** We need to cultivate a broken and contrite spirit, which in actuality, serves to draw us closer to God.

In the New Testament, we're taught to be diligent and sober. James the apostle says..

***"Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness."* James 4:9**

He's concerned why more don't get saved. He wonders why more of us don't weep and cry that more will get saved. He wonders why more of us don't go to people we know to be lost and preach the Word, exhorting them, warning them, trying to convince them to give their lives to Jesus.

Shouldn't the gospel in us cause us to have this kind of attitude? Shouldn't the realization that Jesus suffered and died for us just naturally brings forth an attitude of brokenness and compassion for others who are lost?

If that doesn't brake our hearts, then what will? Look at Jesus suspended between heaven and earth crying out... ***"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."* Luke 23:34**

STORMING HELL OR WARMING IT?

Jesus forsook the splendor and glory of Heaven and became poor for our sakes. He came to us on our level. The Holy One of Israel gladly surrounded himself with the poor, the halt, the maimed, the diseased, and the wicked, so that He could free us from the curse of sin and make us rich. No! He did not come to lavish worldly treasures upon us, but rather He came to make us rich in love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and kindness, the treasures that are eternal.

Friends, if we were truly alive with the Spirit of God, no one should be able to hold us back from storming the gates of Hell. However, let someone dare to challenge us in the giving of ourselves, our time, our moneys to the work of the Lord, or to have an all night intercessory prayer meeting, lifting up to God the lost, the young people strung out on drugs, and the unwed mothers ready to have their unwanted babies murdered at the local abortion clinic.

That kind of exhortation is called preaching condemnation or trying to put folks under the law. How could you suggest that I make that kind of sacrifice? Is the truth of what Jesus has done and is doing for us a reality in our hearts, or are we just fooling ourselves.

HEARTS FILLED WITH COMPASSION

Reading in church history about the German Moravan brothers. "As they came alive with the Spirit of God, and they began to see, as Jesus did, the worth of every soul, their hearts were filled with compassion for the dying millions. Consequently, they began to train up and send out missionaries with great fervor. As they began to spread out in different parts of the world, preaching the gospel, some of them came to Northern Africa where they came upon a huge leper colony. Their hearts were heavy as they asked the gatekeeper to go inside so that they might preach the gospel to the lost and dying. "No, I'm sorry, no one is allowed to go inside", was the gatekeeper response. "But sir, you don't understand we must go inside and preach the gospel to these poor souls". The gatekeeper further stated "I'm sorry, but I cannot let you in, for once you go in you can never come out again". The brothers then replied "Then let us go in for we must bring the message of salvation." The astonished gatekeeper then let them in." The Moravan brothers gave their lives to the leper colony.

Do you think Jesus will say that those brothers were crazy, or will He say...

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.." Matthew 25:23

MORE THAN ONE KIND OF LEPROSY

Do you know that there is leprosy worse than skin leprosy? It's leprosy of the soul. The kind that will separate you from God! The conditions of soul leprosy are hard-heartedness, lack of compassion, lack of love and lack of concern for the lost.

You may say that you don't have much teaching about the things in the Bible, but I say the love that Jesus put in our hearts when we got saved will naturally lead us to reach out to others. No one had to tell you to witness to your family and friends when you were first saved! You could not wait to witness to them. You were writing letters, you were on the phone, you were weeping and praying for your lost love ones. Oh, how you longed for them to get saved. What has happen? Could you have lost that compassion?

WHAT IS GOD'S DESIRE

God is crying out as He did in the days of Moses for someone to intercede and travail for the lost, someone full of compassion, concern and love to stand in the gap. God needs men and women whose desires will match His desires. What is God's chief desire? His desire is that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. He wants the lost to be saved. Jesus is our prime example.

Let us follow Jesus as He walked among the blind, the deaf and the crippled. Let's watch Him and listen to Him as He ministers to the widows, the children, the beggars, to all those who need help. He had compassion on them all. He asks you today, "Do you love me? If you do, then keep my commandments, go feed my sheep, go preach the gospel, go tell the lost of my love"

Whether it is across the street or across the oceans, go minister to the needs of the people. It's not enough just to "go" with the gospel message. We either go with concern and compassion, or our journey will be in vain. Go with tears, sow the seed, and you will doubtless come again rejoicing. In fact all of heaven will rejoice with you when one sinner is converted.

We need Jesus to help us in the areas we are lacking in. When church attending, Christ-confessing families can spend 47 hours a week watching television, something is wrong! How many hours a week do you spend in prayer, weeping and interceding for the lost? How many hours a week are you witnessing and working for Jesus? When was the last time you visited an unwed mother homes, nursing home, or took tracts to the prisoners in the local jail, or visited and prayed for the sick in the hospital?

I encourage you to pray to the Lord. Ask Jesus to break your heart and fill your eyes with tears for the lost millions of the world, in your city and in your neighborhood.

Let's pray... "Jesus, we want to weep for our loved ones. Forgive us for being wrapped up in the things of the world, when we should be giving ourselves to prayer and fasting. God forgive us for not going forth, for not sowing seeds with our tears. By your grace and by your mercy, Lord, we are going to touch the hem of your garment. Lord, help us to look over the city where we live and with our minds, identify with it as you did Jerusalem. Allow us to weep over the lost condition of men and women all around us. Lord, forgive us for our barrenness. Oh! God break our hearts for the lost. Hear us today, dear Jesus"