

TITLE: SOUL WINNING REJOICING AND REWARDS

Text: *Luke 15:3* So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?

5 "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

7 "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Introduction: Jesus worked hard every day of His ministry more than anyone else in history and He's given us an example to follow. No one has sacrificed more than Jesus in His ministry and on the cross? Jesus is the Shepherd just like the shepherd in the parable who went looking for his lost sheep.

He leaves the 99 and goes out on a search and rescue mission for one sheep. He combs the hillsides, looks behind every rock, pokes his staff into every bush and all the while calling out to the sheep. No matter how long it takes, no matter how tired and worn out the shepherd gets, he won't quit until he finds that one lost sheep. When he finally finds the lost sheep, he joyfully carries it home on his shoulders and when he arrives, he shares his joy with all his friends, family and neighbours. Jesus said;

"I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

We were the lost sheep; every one of us was the lost sheep according to

Isa 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

And Ps 119:176 says "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments."

Jesus came to save the lost:

Mt 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Jesus is the Shepherd of our souls

“For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” 1Pe 2:25

Lu 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

We are the continuators of the ministry of Jesus Christ and as we advance His Kingdom in Soul Winning endeavours, we rejoice because there's a reward for us. There is rejoicing in heaven over one lost soul and there's rejoicing on earth as well over one lost soul. Soul winning endeavours brings rejoicing into our lives because it pays to win souls.

Win a soul, you win a price and get the reward. That is why we must be purposeful in this race to soul winning. What is the price of a soul? It's priceless and that's why the rewards are priceless.

All believers should be enlisted in soul winning endeavours and engaging with all their might and strength. The perfect plan of God for every believer is to run this race of advancing His Kingdom and as we run this race that is set before us to win souls, we obtain the prize attached to it.

So there is definitely a reward for soul-winning. Does it make any difference whether we obey the great commission and seek to win souls, or whether we do not?

1. It makes a difference to souls who will be either lost or saved according to our faithfulness or unfaithfulness.

2. It makes a difference to other souls who might have been won through those whom we could have won to the Lord.

For instance;

- Imagine if Jesus had not won the woman at the well to Himself. Is it too much to presume that the “many” in Samaria who came to the Lord through her testimony would not have come to Him?
- Would Lydia's household have been saved if Lydia had not been saved?

The potential of a seed cannot be overemphasised

3. It makes a difference to the Lord Himself.

Isa 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

THE REWARDS THAT ARE ATTAINABLE BY ALL OF US

1. The reward we get from engaging in soul winning endeavours: There is a satisfaction in soul winning that is found nowhere else! The work itself brings its own immediate reward. Those who engage in the work of winning souls are rewarded by the deep sense of joy and satisfaction that comes to them. You see the greatness of the work gives to the soul-winner a sense of great satisfaction. **James 5:20** lets him know that *he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

2. The peace and joy that comes through our obedience to Soul winning: The happiest people are those who obey God,

Ps 19:11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

3. The Reward of faithfulness and the joy and honour that will accompany it: **Matthew 25:21**, *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.' Enter into the joy of your lord." the reward the Lord promises us is for faithfulness.*

4. The joy of meeting those who have been won to the Lord through us:

Paul said in

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

20 For you are our glory and joy." Paul anticipates the moment when he would meet in Heaven those he had led to Jesus on earth.

Ps 126:5 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. 6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 "Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.

2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

3 If the clouds are full of rain, They empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.

4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

5 As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

6 In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.”

Galatians 6:9 *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart”*

“Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.” Proverbs 31:31

God says *"So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.*

26 "No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfil the number of your days. Exodus 23:25 & 26

CONCLUSION

It pays to run this race with discipline so that we can obtain all these glorious promises of God. You need discipline to obtain any reward in life. Paul said

1Co 9:24 “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.”

The winners of the Olympic competitions were rewarded both materially and with great honour; however, the primary emphasis of reward in the Olympic champions in the ancient world was not material wealth, but on the

distinguished honour bestowed on the winners. These people were able only able to achieve victory in the Olympics games by being disciplined, balanced, and committed to excellence; for these qualities, they were held in high regard. They became respected heroes, and icons in their society. Respect, honour, notoriety, and fame became their lifelong reward. It is only achievable through committed discipline. Hence Apostle Paul said in **1Cor 9:27**:

But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

We must always keep in mind that we are not running a private race of faith, but a race that has influence on many people's lives. We need to see ourselves as spiritual Olympic competitors. Our task is to find the lost on the highways, byways, and the hedges. So we need to get in shape so we can win.

Runners have one thought foremost in their minds – the finish line! So Paul tells us to run our soul winning race with all our might, keeping focused on the goal of eternal rewards and physical rewards. The rewards of a life dedicated to soul winning endeavours are enormous. Not only will God materially reward us as we are faithful to His kingdom advancement agenda, but He also reserves eternal rewards of honour, and glory for those who run their race with faithfulness, discipline and dedication.

Prayer Points for today:

- Father in Jesus Mighty name, help me to set my eyes on the race for soul winning and to make it to the finishing line when I hear You say well done thou good and faithful servant
- Lord it's going to take my spiritual, mental and physical energy to advance Your Kingdom, so am turning to You now, Holy Spirit am asking You to empower me and to help me make soul winning the race of my life.
- Lord Jesus let me not to miss out on your material and eternal rewards as I follow You in soul winning endeavours in Jesus Name

Now ask the Lord for grace

- Grace to set my eyes on the race to soul winning agenda
- Grace to do what it takes to win souls for Christ in my soul winning endeavours

- Grace to partake in the rewards for soul winning
- Grace to commit to Soul Winning endeavours all the days of my life

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Pray for forgiveness of sins.

“I bless the bread and wine and whatever you have. I declare it holy as a symbol of the blood and flesh of Jesus Christ.

I pray that as you partake of this communion; you are empowered by the Holy Spirit mentally and physically with the energy to advance God’s Kingdom through soul winning endeavours. I pray that you will be rewarded materially with honour and glory both in your life and in eternity. I pray that God will give you spiritual understanding to know what you ought to do in this Prophetic season of revival in Jesus Mighty Name.”

Give Jesus thanks!