

SEEK THE LORD

What's the Best Thing I Can Do for God?

There is a story of a man who went to see his doctor. He said to the doctor, "I feel drained, exhausted and tired. I do not have any energy. I have a chronic headache. I feel worn out all the time. What is the best thing I can do?"

The doctor knew the man well, and knew something of his wild lifestyle. So he gave this advice, "I'll tell you what the best thing is you can do. You can go home each day after work, get a good nights sleep, stop drinking and smoking, and lose some weight." The man was silent for a moment and then he said to the doctor, "What's the next best thing I can do?"

We might ask ourselves what is the best thing we can do for God? We might pray about it and ask good friends. When we find out, a lot of us ask what is the next best thing they can do for God?

Many people sincerely want to know what is the best thing they can do or God. This is an individual calling from God, but we can find some guidelines from the Bible. I find great help in the parables that Jesus taught. They are simple but powerful lessons to help us understand ourselves and God. The fun thing about parables is they usually have some kind of surprise element in them. At first the parable may seem simple and straight forward and all of a sudden they flip our values. They turn the world upside down.

One of those parables is found in the book of Mark, chapter four, verses one through nine. This is the parable of the sower. In Jesus' story we find a man sowing seeds. Some seeds fell on the path and couldn't grow because the ground was too

hard. Some other seed fell on rocky soil and because the ground was shallow they couldn't grow. Other seed fell among thorns and the plants were choked out then they grew. Still other seed fell on good soil and grew and yielded a great harvest.

There are several different ways we could understand this parable. First, some say the point of the parable is about the soils and all about hearing the word of God and responding to it. Second, some say the point of the parable is with the teller. Maybe Jesus is describing his own experiences as a teacher. Third, some say the point of the parable is the harvest. We are to do our best and trust God for the future harvest. Fourth, some say the point is the way the sower scatters his seed everywhere. The sower broadcasts the seed everywhere it might even have a chance to grow.

What is the best thing we can do for God? Certainly this parable reminds us that all of us are to receive the seed (the Word of God) and to go and spread it to others. We are to be about sharing God's word whatever way we can.

I think the 'surprise' element of this parable is with the harvest. After all, three of the four places he sowed were bad! And yet there was a great harvest! This is a very reassuring point to hold onto. Hang in there. Trust God. Don't give up. Do your part and God will do His part. God will bring the harvest.

Prayer: Our Lord, help us not to let other things get in the way of doing our best for you. Amen

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