



and that's...
The Gospel Truth!!
with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

There was a little old lady, who every morning, stepped onto her front porch, raised her arms to the sky, and shouted: "PRAISE THE LORD!"

An atheist moved into the house next door and soon became irritated at the little old lady because of her daily ritual. In protest he began stepping onto his front porch after her and yelled: "THERE IS NO LORD!"

Time passed with the two of them carrying on this way every day. One morning, in the middle of winter, the little old lady shouted: "Please Lord, I have no food and I am starving, provide for me, oh Lord!" "PRAISE THE LORD!"

The next morning she stepped onto her porch and there were two huge bags of groceries sitting there. "PRAISE THE LORD!" she cried out. "YOU HAVE PROVIDED GROCERIES FOR ME!"

The atheist neighbor jumped out of the hedges and shouted: "THERE IS NO LORD. I BOUGHT THOSE GROCERIES!!"

The little old lady threw her arms into the air and shouted: "PRAISE YOU LORD, YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH GROCERIES AND MADE THE DEVIL PAY FOR THEM!"

The Father says, "I am the Lord, thy God Jehovah-Jireh". Translated, that means that he is the Lord, our God, our Provider. His "provisions" are much more than just financial or sustenance as the little lady experienced above.

One of the greatest provisions He places before us is opportunity. Often times we miss tremendous blessings because we just don't see the opportunity when it is presented.

My very best friend has a God-given gift for seeing opportunities in the smallest of circumstances. He amazes me that we can be sitting at a restaurant table together, involved in a casual conversation, when he speaks those exciting words that I have grown so fond of, "You know what you ought to do?".... I have learned over these years that opportunity is about to bang on the door when those words come forth. I truly believe that God put him in my life not just to be a terrific guitar partner, but to help me see the opportunities that lie before me that I would just blow right by. I must admit, I have a tendency to focus on the one thing that looms before and not "see the forest for trees". I can honestly say that ever suggestion he has given me has played out even better than expected.

Several years ago he and I went to a concert in Knoxville, TN to hear a wonderful guitar player, Doyle Dykes. Now Doyle is one of the top guitarists on this planet and does many of his concerts in churches. A fine, Spirit filled man, his technique is somewhat akin to a weed-eater playing a guitar. During his concert, he stopped and said, "You know folks, I rarely ever do this but, the Lord just spoke to me that there is someone here tonight that is having trouble hearing from Him like you used to. It's as though the channel

were blocked. He says that your problem is 'busyness and procrastination. Correct that and you will be effective for the Kingdom of God once again.'...Well, he might as well have hit me up the side of the head with a two by four! That was my problem to a tee. I still feel to this day that the concert that wasn't just about hearing a great guitarist but about hearing from God. That statement drew my attention to a debilitating problem that had affected my effectiveness as one whose ultimate desire is have a positive affect on the world around me for Christ.

In Genesis, the Word tells us that three things will never depart from the earth; the sun, the moon, and seed-time-and harvest. Folks we have to work! We have to invest the gifts or seed that we are given to help grow the kingdom of God. We must invest time in nurturing and developing those gifts not for our glory but for the Lord's glory. Being a good steward with those gifts will be a witness of our thankfulness to Him for entrusting them to us. Maybe you don't know what your gifts are. It is hard to invest something if you don't know what He has given you to invest. The best way to find out what they are is to pray and ask Him just what they are. Also, ask others around you to define what they see in you that would be of benefit to others and further the growth of the Kingdom of God. I spent years in ministry and service to others, but only when I began to observe my best buddy and his uncanny knack for seeing opportunity, was I able to begin to do the same. Nurturing your gifts is the "time" part.

So what is the "harvest" ? Abundant life! The Word tells us that "to those who are given much, much is expected" and that "to those who give, much is received".

Oh sure, the miraculous can happen but it's not the norm. As the old saying goes, "Nothing great was ever accomplished with wishes. You dig the bait, and He'll supply the fishes!"...

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