

## Sowing as Evangelism

### Today's Reading

### John 4:35-38

Most people tremble at the sound of the word "evangelism." They may think of the sad little preacher at the street corner screaming hell and high water or they think of the times they failed to "evangelize."

The reason I believe most tremble is that they equate "evangelism" with "soul winning." Jesus, however, spoke of "evangelism" in the context of "sowing" and "reaping." In this passage Jesus recognized the role of the one who sows in the process of evangelism. He said, "One sows and another reaps." (v. 37).

This passage has everything to do with "reaping," "soul winning," if you will. The disciples were about to experience a great harvest with many Samaritans coming to believe in the Messiah (verse 39), yet even in this context, Jesus was careful to also remember the "sowers."

Jesus went further. He said, "I sent you to reap that which you

had not worked for..." Jesus was referring to those who had come before, perhaps prophets who had preached at great peril, or the 72 whom Jesus had sent two-by-two "to every city and place where He Himself was going to come." (Luke 10:1). Whoever they were, Jesus was careful to recognize them. He even said that they did the "hard work" (NIV).

So next time you hear the word "evangelism," think about sowing the seed of the Gospel. Some of us are into soul winning but all of us must be active in sowing and reaping. Our prayer every morning should be: "Lord, give me a sowing encounter today. Help me to point someone to you in a tangible way today."

Jesus says in this passage that one day there will be a party of the "sowers and reapers incorporated." On that day, "the one who sows and the one who reaps will rejoice together" (v. 36) and we will finally know the rest of the story.

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