



"All One In Christ"

THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

THEME "UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO"

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

HARVEST WEEK LESSONS AND SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

JULY/AUGUST 2024

SUB THEME: "HARVEST, A TIME TO CELEBRATE"

INTRODUCTION

Harvest is one of the most important times in the Christian yearly calendar. This year's harvest is very unique in that we are celebrating in the midst of climate change and long dry spell in most parts of the country. It is during this week of harvest that Christians world over commemorate and celebrate the faithfulness of God. Harvest week offers Christians all over the global an opportunity and atmosphere for spiritual renewal. It is a time to focus our minds on God's providence and intensify our preparation in an attempt to appreciate God through our Lord Jesus Christ for all His goodness towards us. This year's celebration of harvest, is under the sub-theme "**Harvest, a time to celebrate**" in line with UCZ theme "**Understanding the times and what to do**" and we shall reflect on the following topics: ***The transformative and productive harvest, A call to a generous giving, 'Perfect harvest, Remember the lord your God in your harvest, The significance of harvest of Holy Communion.***

MONDAY

TOPIC: TRANSFORMATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE HARVEST

BIBLE READING: GALATIANS 6:4-10

INTRODUCTION

Our topic for today is ***Transformative and Productive Harvest***. The New International Bible Dictionary defines transformative as the radical and typically positive change in the outlook, character, form, or condition. All in all, harvest celebration service is human response to God's provision. In exploring the topic for the day through the text we have read, we shall discuss the following questions:

1. What do you understand by transformative and productive harvest?
2. How do we sow to the flesh and to the spirit? What kind of harvest do both realities produce?
3. How do we make this year's harvest transformative both in church and society?
4. Does our harvest transform our faith especially our giving?
5. What have you learnt from today's bible study lessons?

CONCLUSION

We all have opportunities to do good and these are tied to times and seasons demanding our labour and prudent stewardship. We are reminded to be the channel of transformation to society only when we remain productive and authentic in our dealings. Discipleship demands that all who become followers of Jesus Christ demonstrate their faith through actions of obedience to their master and that they have an obligation as believers to their God. Our giving to God and service to community must come primarily from what we are producing at personal or institutional level. May the mission of God transform society even through our giving?

Amen!

TUESDAY

TOPIC: A CALL TO GENEROUS GIVING

BIBLE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

INTRODUCTION

Our topic for today is '***A Call to Generous Giving***'. Paul is reminding and encouraging the Corinthian Church that each one of them must decide on how they would respond to the call of generous giving.- Christians too need to do the same, it is in giving that the mission of God will be enhanced and the poor and the less privileged will be helped.

In exploring this topic, we shall discuss the following questions:

1. How does an individual process what and why they are going to give, how do they decide, what motivates their decision?
2. What are the benefits of generous giving according to Paul?
3. What constitutes generous giving according to your understanding?
4. In line with harvest, what is the relationship between sowing and reaping?
5. What have you learnt from today's Bible study lessons?

CONCLUSION

As we conclude on today's topic we have been reminded that giving should not be left to chance. God has blessed us with so many gifts in life and in response to His goodness, we offer our gifts and substance to Him in worship as we demonstrate our deep appreciation of Him. Remember giving should be a life style of all Christians, we need to be consistent in our giving.

Amen!

WEDNESDAY

TOPIC: PERFECT HARVEST

BIBLE READING: NUMBERS 29:36 EXODUS 22:29

INTRODUCTION

Our topic for today is '**PERFECT HARVEST**'. In life we make many sacrifices. In the texts above, one is able to interpret what constitutes "a **perfect harvest**". It must be first, the best choice, without blemish or defect, right intent or motive of the heart, it must be from a sincere and pure heart, one that is acceptable to the Lord. In exploring this topic we shall discuss the following questions:

1. According to your understanding, is there such a thing as " perfect harvest?"
2. Why were the firstborn sons and animals presented to God?
3. What type of first fruits do we need to offer to God and why?
4. What have you learnt from today's Bible study lessons?

CONCLUSION

Jesus is worth the sacrifice. As a loving God, He has done so much for us. In the first place, He was sinless, sacrificed His life for sinners like us, he offered a more perfect sacrifice acceptable to God and met all requirements of divine justice for our redemption. For it pleased the father to bruise the Son for the atonement of our sin, moreover, He was the Only One qualified to do so and has continued to forgive our sins to date.

Amen!

THURSDAY

TOPIC: REMEMBER THE LORD YOUR GOD IN YOUR HARVEST

BIBLE READING: LEVITICUS 23:9-14.

INTRODUCTION

Our topic for today is “**Remember the Lord your God in your harvest**”. From the reality of Pastoral life and nomadic peasant farming, Israel was expected to remember the Lord and go with their harvests to the place of worship. Those who stayed far away from the place of worship and were not able to transport the harvest offerings, they were advised to sell and carry the value of the money they had sold their livestock or grain to the temple and needed to appear before the Priest with their offerings. The emphasis was that no man would be allowed to appear before God empty handed. Equally today, we can reflect old practices and find the principle life lessons applicable today.

In this topic we shall discuss the following questions:

1. How can we remember our God with and in our harvest?
2. Can God be fooled or bribed with our harvest?
3. How can we celebrate harvest differently today since not all of us are farmers like the Israelites?
4. What have you learnt from today’s Bible study lessons?

CONCLUSION

God gave His best to the world, Jesus Christ, His only Son who came to give His life and died for us, He stood in our place of guilty and rescued us from God’s wrath and punishment. As a loving God, He has done so much for us. We have no excuse but to be humble enough and be grateful to give Him thanks, to worship Him, give Him our lives and ultimately give Him gifts from our labour and sweat because all things belong to God as the absolute source.

Amen!

FRIDAY

TOPIC: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HARVEST OF HOLY COMMUNION

BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 26:6-13

INTRODUCTION:

Our topic for today is '*the significance of harvest of holy communion*'.

In the Life of the Church and its worship there is an Institution of Holy Communion in which Christians all over the world are united with Christ at the Lords table , the triumphant and imminent Church. Holy Communion is a great sign that points to the future Harvest of all the faithful to be gathered from East to West, and North to South. It shows the great harvest of God's grace.

In exploring this topic we shall discuss the following questions:

1. What is the significance of having Holy Communion on the day of harvest?
2. Is Jesus worth of His harvest of our souls? Discuss
3. What should we sacrifice on the day of harvest and any other day?
4. What have you learnt from today's Bible study lessons?

CONCLUSION

The Lord of the harvest of souls, having been invited and reunited with you, we come rejoicing, we come and join in the feast of celebration. It was in fact during the feast of harvest that souls on the day of Pentecost were won to the Lord after Peters pricking sermon. The heavenly banquet will not be complete without the host of heaven and the harvest of souls won from darkness into the kingdom of light and of His son. May our joy at this harvest be a taste of the joy we shall share when we celebrate the final harvest in heaven, that day of days when all that we have been, will be consummated. Blessed are You, Oh Lord our God, who has given to us this opportunity to dine with you and sit at your heavenly banquet, In Jesus's name.

Amen!



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MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT (MED)

THEME "UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO"

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

HARVEST SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

JULY/AUGUST 2024

SUB THEME: "HARVEST, A TIME TO CELEBRATE"

SCRIPTURE READING: DEUTERONOMY 8:2-18 & ECCLESIASTES 11:6

INTRODUCTION

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein (**Psalms24.1**). Brothers and Sisters, all things come from God, Let us therefore bring to our memory all the gifts God in His love has given us. First of all, Let us remember how God has clothed the earth with life, and how God has put things that grow on earth for our benefit so that we can have them as food and medicines and other things that give pleasure to our sight such as flowers

BIBLE EXPLANATION

In this text, God told Moses to instruct the Children of Israel not to forget the Lord when they enter Canaan, the Promised Land. He further told them that, passing through the wilderness were a necessary tool to test their hearts and humble them. **Deuteronomy 8:1-18**. This was to make sure that they trusted in the Lord completely even when they had plenty and were successful in all

areas of life. God's provision and presence was demonstrated when He provided water, manna, and victory over their enemies in the wilderness. In **Ecclesiastes** the author recognizes the gift of times and seasons, investing in various portfolio and the need for the hands to do the work before one could celebrate the Harvest.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

1. IT IS WORK FIRST THAT OCCASIONS HARVEST

In this year's harvest, we must realize that the labour dimension of our existence was created in the category of the blessings before the fall of man, God told Adam to till the land and to nurture it for it to sustainably provide for him and the created order. We must have a bigger picture and realize that since God is the owner of everything including the Church, therefore, every service being done in the Church must be done to Him, for Him and through Him and ultimately for His glory. Paul also makes an emphatic warning that whoever does not work must not eat as well. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. This is so because He is the one who has called all of us to serve Him in various ways.

2. WE HAVE A REASON TO CELEBRATE

One who sowed and had planted always looks forward to the time of harvest, so that he or she can eat from the fruits of their labour but also to give thanks to God for His goodness towards humanity. Pupils who are in school, students in colleges and universities look forward to passing and graduating, they look forward to working, earning their salaries and eat the fruits of their labour. God has been so good to us even in moments of crisis, in the midst of the high cost of living, yet we perpetually choose to worship God with our gifts because in the first place we are alive to see the beauty of God and His mercies that are new every morning. Count your blessing and you will have a reason to celebrate.

3. MAINTAIN THE ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE:

In this harvest, God is calling us to worship Him through our harvest offering with full understanding that giving is one of the many forms of worship. Just like He called Cain and Abel for a harvest service, this year God is calling the entire Church to the Harvest to celebrate the goodness of God. It is a demonstration of gratitude, that what we are and what we have comes from God and in our deep sense of gratitude we return to Him a portion of the many blessings He has given us to show our appreciation, worship and thanksgiving.

If we look back to the beginning of our years and recall the blessings of God over our lives, then we will have reasons to celebrate God and His goodness. Life is a gift worth thanking God for. Provision of shelter, clothing, finances, beautiful wives and husbands, children, siblings, friends, completion of one's academic journey and above all the harvest God gives and many other things that we cannot count or name, they all give us a reason to thank God for. Beyond God's provision of the harvest, the people of Israel were reminded to remember that God rescued them from the hands of the Egyptians who had enslaved them for four hundred years and it was He who gave them the power to create wealth.

CONCLUSION

Harvest is an opportunity God has given us to reflect and count on the blessings of the Lord lavished upon our lives, families, and as a congregation. When we behold the benevolence and the mercy of God, let us remember where we have come from, see where we are now and not to forget the promises of God ahead of us. Let us come together and honour the Lord with our produce, the fruits of our labour, our wealth and lay them before God in worship.

AMEN!

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK
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HARVEST WEEK LESSONS AND SUNDAY'S SERMON OUTLINE**

**FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSION &
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