

HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Text: John. 6:12 "Gather up the fragments that remain"

Introduction: on a beautiful hill sloping upward from blue galilee sat Jesus with his disciples. Lifting his eyes toward the distance he saw a hungry multitude coming to hear him preach during the lengthening shadows of the evening.

I. Gather up the fragments of your faults.

A. Confess them to God. I Jno. 1:9

B. For sake your sins - Prov. 28:13 "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

C. Lay aside your besetting sin. Heb. 12:1

D. When God forgives your sins, then you forget them. Phil. 3:13, "Forgetting these things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before."

II. Gather up the fragments of your opportunities

A. Don't lose your opportunities. Don't waste them. God has a law of economy in nature. It is called the law of the conservation of energy. Energy, or matter, cannot be changed but it cannot be either created or destroyed.

"The little drift of common dust

By the March winds disturbed and tossed,
Though scattered by the fitful gust
Is changed but never lost."

B. You have opportunities to use your time to God's glory. Every hour is a crucial hour.

Time shall grow old and die, while eternity's unnumbered years shall speed their everlasting course.

C. Opportunities in spiritual things:

1. "Read the Bible through in 1952."

Next week read Gen. 1-26. at least read in that section of the Bible.

One of the Sunday's sermons will be from the passage read that week.

2. Form habits of daily personal and family prayer.

3. Be faithful to your church.

(a). attendance (b). tithing regularly

(c). Find your place of service & work.

4. Win souls to Christ.

52 converts baptized in 1952.

5. You have a new opportunity to rededicate your whole life to Christ for the new year.

(a). Jesus seeks a pulpit right in the midst of your daily life. Lk. 5:3.
Jesus comes to each of us and asks us to let him have our daily occupations as His preaching place. When Jesus is in the ship everything is in its right place. Then the cargo is in the hold, not in the heart.

III. Gather up the fragments of God's Grace over and above your every need.

A. God has His strength for your weakness

B. Grace of His peace for your anxieties

C. Jesus' gives joy for your sorrow.

These are some of the flowers that blossomed from his footprints as He journeyed toward the cross for you. Gather them up for a new-fading bouquet for the New Year.