



Harvest Sermon Outline Jesus the Master Rescuer

He multiplied food – loaves and fishes - to feed a crowd and rescued them from hunger.

Tell the story (briefly) of the Loaves and fishes (Ref John Ch. 6 v.11ff). These people were in a situation where they had no food for the day's need and Jesus rescued them from their hunger with a miracle. Today Jesus uses His people to be His hands and feet and agents of rescue for the hungry of this world.

The secret of the success of this miracle was multiplication, and is one of the keys in helping to solve today's hunger problem. Send a Cow have seen a 'phenomenon' which they call 'The multiplier effect'. As families become farmers – and often their own bosses – others naturally want to share in their success. This means that every person who is helped by Send a Cow passes on knowledge and skills to around another nine family members, friends or neighbours.

He sent a Samaritan woman away with a new life and rescued her from failure giving her hope.

Tell the story (briefly) John Ch 4 v3 – 42 of the Woman at the well in Samaria. Her occupation was one which consigned her to a life of isolation cut off from normal life and relationships – a life without hope.

Jesus dealt with the root cause of her hopelessness – her way of earning her living – He sought to rescue her from herself and her way of life, (her sin).

Jesus calls us to deal with the causes of people's hopelessness, which cuts them off from many of society's benefits, by rescuing them from their physical prison of hunger and poverty. Many have no way of producing enough food to eat and to feed their families.

He does this by giving us the example of 'Passing on the Gift'. Immediately the woman obeyed His call to repentance and faith, she went out and told others, who came and found the same answer to their life's needs in Jesus, as she had done, and He gave them the same hope she had received – hope of a transformed life. She passed on what God had done, and didn't just keep it to herself.

Send a Cow has its own Pass it On system. Every family who receives a gift from them promises to pass on a gift to another family in need. Whether it's the first female calf, seeds, saplings or skills, each gift starts a chain of giving that continues to grow and grow. Importantly they become donors themselves, restoring their dignity and pride.

So Send a Cow seeks to deal with the root cause of people's hunger and poverty and not just the symptoms. To offer them a 'hand-up' rather than a 'hand-out'. It seeks to rescue them in such a way that they have real life changing and permanent hope - sustainability. The families who have received start to give to others in their community.

- They were receivers. Now they become givers.
- Some of the animals that are born are not kept - they are given away.
- So the chain continues.

He rescued them from their despair.

When Jesus met and ate with the disciples after walking with them along the Emmaus Road, He transformed their sadness into joy. (Luke Ch. 24 v. 13 – 35). They went back to Jerusalem and shared their joy with many others. He rescued them from their sadness and distress. Knowing that Jesus was alive from the dead, that He had risen indeed, and could be experienced in the here and now, He transformed their outlook on the future.

This is the practical mission of Send a Cow, providing the resources for Transforming Joy as people are not only fed but equipped to help others to follow their experience and find a similar joy. Not only by passing on knowledge through the Pass it On principle and the multiplier effect, but also by becoming peer farmers themselves. Farmers who become exceptional at what they do are asked to help train other farmers in neighbouring groups. Helping to spread the knowledge quicker and to more and more people.

The joy of our Harvest celebrations can reverberate around the world through the life changing training given, seeds grown and animals provided. Send a Cow seeks daily to rescue people from hunger, to take them from sadness to joy and from despair to hope and self-sufficiency, in the most practical of ways.

Background

The charity Send a Cow was started by a group of farmers some twenty three years ago.

The cows gave milk and manure, and people quickly benefitted.

Now its not just cows but goats, sheep, bees, chickens, rabbits, donkeys as well as seeds, training and tools. The result is that families are able to:

Grow much bigger crops of food.

Have enough food for every day.

Manure goes onto the land so it can give higher yields.

Families can sell food and build an income.

Money can buy books so children can go to school.

The family can afford medicines if they're needed and so people can start to live real lives.

'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up'.
Gal 6.9 NIV

