

## “Cast Your Bread”

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by John Hines

**E**cclésiastes 11 tells us, “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days” (v. 1). Overall, the passage is about generosity as opposed to selfishly hoarding. The same author would say, “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty” (Proverbs 11:24). It is talking about the same concept, being generous, and from the Ecclesiastes passage, being generous even when it seems wasteful. Cast your bread upon the waters.

Let’s look at the chapter through the lens of sharing the bread of life, the Word. What points do we see in the passage?

### Be Producers

“If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth” (v. 3). We have been richly blessed, spiritually and physically. What should we do with those blessings? Share them. We may live in a consumer society, and there is a time to consume, but if we only consume and never produce, we’re causing a drought! The earth needs the rain! We, the clouds, are full! Open up and let it pour.

### Go Out The Right Way

“If a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie” (v. 3). We won’t live forever. God will bring us into judgment (v. 9). When we fall to the ground, the way we are leaning will determine where we fall. Will we fall towards the Lord or will we fall towards the world? We will pass from the world. Let’s do what we can before that time, making sure we are pointed towards the Lord, serving Him.

### No Excuses

“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap” (v. 4). People make excuses for not following the Lord. People make excuses for not sharing the Lord. “It’s not the right time. We’ve tried that before. It’ll just blow away. It’ll just wash away.” We know all the reasons sharing won’t work. The Lord comes along and tells us, frankly, we don’t know anything (v. 5).

### Be Diligent

“In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good” (v. 6). We sow, water, fertilize, and weed. We work the ground, or actually, the Lord is working the ground. We’re just the tool. His Word is working the ground. We need to be diligent throughout the process. Beyond that, it is in the Lord’s hands.

“Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days” (v. 1). That is a promise. “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void...” (Isaiah 55: 10-11). That is a promise. Let us be generous and share what the Lord has given us. Have patience and find your bread again.

— via the bulletin of the  
25th St. Church of Christ, Columbus, Indiana