

"A man sent from God" John chapter 1 verse 6

The story is told of an earnest Christian complimenting his neighbour on his garden. "You and the Lord have done a wonderful job on this garden." He says. "Aye, well," his neighbour replies, "You should have seen it when he had it to himself."

I'm sure you must have heard people described as 'a Godsend'. You must have done it yourself, when someone has come along at just the right time bringing just what was needed in your situation.

We sometimes pray desperately for God to do something in our lives but fail to recognise when he sends people with his answer. Let's learn to recognise when people are literally "Godsends" in our lives and in the lives of others.

This is entirely in keeping with the way God so often works in scripture. Our world is ordered so that it works best when people are working hand in hand with God. At the creation, God brought all life, plant, animal and human into being, and then gave people the task of nurturing what he had caused to exist and grow. Only God can bring about the mysterious process of growth, both physical and spiritual. We can watch it and even describe it, but we ourselves cannot actually make things grow.

God continues to cause life to proliferate, but without our obedient cooperation things grow out of control, as our gardener noted. We need to recognise our responsibility to sow good things into our world and into our own lives and the lives of others, and allow God to make them fruitful so that we can one day reap a harvest from them.

John the Baptist was described as "A man who was sent from God." He was sent to bring a message of good news, that a saviour, Jesus, was coming who would do all that was necessary to make us right with God if we respond in faith to him. The bible says that just at the right time God sent his Son.

We need to ask God for the insight and discernment to recognise how he is working in our lives by the things and people he sends to us "just at the right time," and how we are to work alongside him to become Godsends in the lives of others.

Prayer

Father, thank you that you know all my needs, even better than and before I know them myself. Help me to see you working in my life for my best good, through the people you send into my life. Please also show me how I am supposed to be working in cooperation with you in order to bring about your will in the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

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