

Rainy Season

Story

RAIN comes in Zimbabwe only between October and April. The rest of the year we never use a raincoat or an umbrella! This may seem good, but when it is very hot we long for rain.

Some years very little rain falls and there is famine, but this year plenty has fallen and many people should have a good harvest.

However, this is not always true and we can learn a lesson from the different people we see around.

Mr. Hlakanipi has his field ploughed and is ready to plant whenever the first shower comes so that his crops benefit from every drop of rain. He cultivates properly and a good harvest is the result.

Mr. Thandabuza wants to be sure that the rain will come and that it will not stop soon, so he waits too long and then plants. If later rains do not come his crop is lost!

Mr. Ivila makes excuses of previous droughts and does not plant at all, and even when others are eating fresh green mealies (corn on the cob) his family is still hungry.

I ought to tell you that the names of these men have meanings. Hlakanipi means ‘wise’, Thandabuza

means ‘doubt’ and Ivila means ‘lazy’. See how suitable their names are!

Now our reaction to the Gospel may be like the behaviour of these men. If we put off seeking salvation until it is too late, making excuses of the fact that we cannot save ourselves, then, like Mr. Thandabuza and Mr. Ivila, we will have to suffer the awful consequences.

If we are wise like Mr. Hlakanipi we will ‘search the Scriptures’ (John 5:39), and ‘seek diligently’ (Hebrews 11:6), and Jesus has promised that we will find Him. ‘Those that seek Me early shall find Me’ (Proverbs 8:17).

M. Graham

