

“Sowing and Reaping”

Galatians 6:7-10

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October 2nd, 2022

Teaching Notes

In the last few weeks we have looked at...

...gentle restoration,

...bearing burdens and carrying our own loads,

...and the biblical perspective on giving.

Following up the idea of giving...

...Paul is giving us a little lesson about **sowing and reaping**

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **8** For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. **9** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Break this section into parts...

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

This is a major Biblical principal.

1. What you sow is what will grow.

The seed you put in the ground...

...is the fruit you will reap from the ground.

So the question is...**What are you sowing?**

Jesus' key Parable of the Soils is about sowing and reaping.

The sower sows seed, and plants grow and bear fruit.

There is a correlation from seed to fruit...

...But the seed and the fruit look nothing alike.

What you sow, doesn't look like what you reap.

Seeds will produce seed but it is usually hidden in the fruit.

So too with the spiritual application...

2. What you sow looks different than what you reap.

Psalm 126:5 NKJV

Those who sow in tears

Shall reap in joy.

He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him

God brings restoration, and those that left with sorrow and seed and brokenness, will return with sheaves and joy and blessing.

James 3:18 ESV

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Sow with peace by making peace and reap righteousness.

When you are making peace, you will have a return of right living.

When you sow discord, you will have unrighteousness.

Hosea 8:7

They ^ssow the wind,

And reap the whirlwind.

Sow empty pursuit and vane pleasure, and reap trouble and judgment.

Hosea 10:12a

Sow for yourselves righteousness;

Reap in mercy;

Break up your fallow ground,

For *it is* time to seek the Lord,

Sow righteousness and reap God's mercy.

Mercy is received by those that repent.

What you put in the ground is not always what you will get out.

A seed is sown, but a plant is grown

Even speaking about the resurrection I Cor 15...

...Paul says our body is like a seed...

...but what is resurrected is not a physical, weak fleshly body...

... but a glorious, powerful spiritual body.

God's word tells us what seeds will bear what fruit.

I might think if I sow selfishness, I will reap joy.
But when I sow for others that is where joy comes from.

I might think fulfilling all my desires will fulfill me.
But fulfilling desires often leaves me empty.
And fulfilling God's desires for me, is satisfying.

You give that special person everything, and think they'll love you.
But they just use you.

We realize that first we need to give everything to God and love from a place of security in Him
and then there is love and respect.

God's word gives us the best insight on sowing and reaping.

**But Paul begins this section with, "Don't be deceived" ...
...Why would he say, do not be deceived?**

Obviously, we can be deceived! About what?

We may know God's word and or God's warning...
...but choose to disregard it thinking we are the exception.

We are good at fooling people, and we think we can fool God.

We are good at getting out of trouble or avoiding consequences...
...we use our wit or wisdom or winsomeness.
...God sees right through all of that.

Or we think we are good poker players...
You can't play games with a God who can see your hand.

**We think we can get out of the consequences of our actions.
Paul is saying, don't be fooled!
3. God is not a fool. He is a just judge.**

God is saying, choose wisely what you put in your heart/life.

We are like the 3 year old with the chocolate crumbs on our face saying we didn't eat any cookies.

*Don't mock God thinking you are going to get away with it.
...God will catch up with you...
...It may take time...but it will come now or later.*

God is merciful. God is gracious. But God is just.

“mocked” means: “to turn up the nose at”

When we live our own sinful way AND...
... we think there will be no consequences...
...We are mocking God.

We are saying...
...your word doesn't matter...
...you don't keep your word.

When we live in our sinful way, we are saying...
God, you're a fool, you're not worth honoring, or obeying.

God knows every word, every thought, every intent of the heart...
We cannot get away with anything with God.

But we don't have to try to get away...just humbly and honestly confess. Confess and agree with God.

⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

When we sow to the flesh, we reap corruption.
When we sow to the Spirit, we reap everlasting life.

If we live a sinful life of the flesh...

Galatians 5:19b -21 adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

...Here he says, we will reap corruption...What is corruption?...

...Ruin. Death. Decay. Eternal misery of Hell

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 25:41

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:46

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

If you live in sowing seeds of sin...
...it will bring death to you and those around you.

If you live by sowing seeds of faith, you will have life.

**Sin separates us from God, the source of all good...
...that is a part of the torment of hell.**

But God sent His son to die and pay the judgment for our sin.

We don't have to live with the death that sin brings.
We don't have to be separated from God.
We don't have to be judged for our sin.
We don't have to endure the torment of hell.

**That is the whole reason Jesus came, to save us and bring us into His family, forgiven,
secured, and loved.**

And it is all there for the receiving.

Next Paul says...

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

4. Sowing good seed is work in the dirt.

And I can get tired of it!

Don't get weary...don't get tired of sowing good seed.
Don't get tired of doing good deeds.
Don't get worn down doing what is right...keep going.

I am tired of living a holy life.
I am tired of being obedient.
I am tired of the fruit of the Spirit...patient, kind, loving, forgiving.

Don't doubt it is worth it.
Keep sowing good seed!

- Some plants take longer to grow.
- Some flowers take longer to blossom.
- Some fruit takes longer to develop.

In due season...at the right time...in His time...we shall reap.

There is light at the end of the tunnel...
...And Christ is that light...
...and He is working.

Sowing good seed is work, while sowing bad seed just happens.

It is sooo easy to walk in the flesh!
It is my natural state. It is what I revert to. It is where I came from.

Ever notice how easy it is to lie or lust or judge or be lazy?
This seed just falls out of my pockets.

But, just as there is a reward for sowing good seed...
...There is a consequence for sowing bad seed.

AND...

Satan uses those that walk in the flesh.

5. Sowing in the flesh is Satan's seed.

When we sow sin, Satan wins.
The flesh opens the door to the Devil.

Genesis 4:7 AMP

If you do well [believing Me and doing what is acceptable and pleasing to Me], will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well [but ignore My instruction], sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you [to overpower you], but you must master it.

There is the outright sin that Satan uses.

The lust that destroys the marriage.
The anger that ruins the relationship.
The jealousy that brings division.
The pride that separates friends.

Sins of commission are clear...
...but there are also sins of omission.

There are things we do, we shouldn't...
... and things we don't do, we should.

If Satan can't stop us with blatant sin...
...He will slow us with subtle distraction or inaction.

Satan wants you to sow laziness and allow evil to increase.

Satan loves to encourage you to sow selfishness...
...so generosity and ministry will decrease.
Satan gives us distractions so we don't sow good seed carefully...
...because that is where Satan can gain a foothold.

When we look around at our society today...
6. Sowing and reaping applies to all areas of life.

It applies in our lives **individually** as **Christians**...
...what we sow is reflected in our relationships, in our job, in our families, in our lives.

In our lives **corporately** as a **church**...what we sow will be seen in our ministries, in our outreach, in our effectiveness.

And it applies in our lives **socially** as a **state and nation**...
...what we sow we will reap in our business, in leadership, in our politics, in our neighborhoods.

The L in life is lead humbly with love and truth.
If we are going to follow Christ and lead people...
...we have to be people that take action following Christ...

Let's talk about our state and our nation...
The landmark case of Roe v. Wade was overturned federally-
...but now Prop 1 is on the ballot for California...

Proposition 1 is an extreme law that allows late-term abortions at taxpayer expense up to the moment of birth—even if the baby is healthy and the mother's health is not threatened. Current California law already guarantees a woman's right to choose, making this extreme and costly proposal unnecessary.

What are we sowing and reaping?
62 million dead babies since 1973.
That is more than the entire population of South Africa or Italy or or Afganhistan or Ukraine and nearly double Peru.
As Christians, we must lead humbly with love and truth.

Loving the unborn child, loving the mother, and lovingly speaking the truth that we will not support abortion.

The people that we vote for are the people that are making decisions for us about laws and freedoms and the curriculum in the classroom.

Public school curriculum is rampant with a sexual agenda.
It encourages sex outside of marriage.

It encourages the questioning of whether you are a boy or a girl.
It encourages experimenting with different genders and lifestyles.

California Dept of Ed site has resources for teachers like...

[“How to talk to my preschooler about gender identity”](#)

Written by Planned Parenthood.

Or the Gender Unicorn where everything is a sliding scale.

This is not just what is randomly talked about on the playground...
This is being legally prescribed to be taught in the classroom.

These are not just issues to vote on...which we must.

...these are people to love.

These are people trying to live the best way they know how...
And Christ comes to seek and save and show them a better way.

We want people to know Christ and experience His life.

¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Because of all of this...

7. Take the opportunities to do good to all.

This world will get darker and darker, but His Kingdom will grow brighter and brighter as we continue to shine His light.

**It is not the time to take our light and hide it under a bushel.
It is not the time to take our talent and bury it in the dirt.**

We must do good and especially to the house of faith.

Paul is saying do good especially with God’s family.

This is a connection to his exhortation on giving.

If we want to reach the world, we need to start here.

What do we need to do?

Look for opportunities and do good.

L is for LEAD humbly with love and truth.

We hear a call, see a need, or have an opportunity, and by faith we step up to serve the Lord and bring the love of Christ and the truth of God's Word in the power of His Spirit.

I is for INVEST eternally with hope and purpose.

God is glorified when we cheerfully and strategically give our time, talent, and treasure believing God will use it to make an impact in the lives around us, locally, globally, and eternally.

F is for FOLLOW faithfully with grit and grace.

This means we trust and obey God daily with a determination that doesn't quit and a heart that is quick to repent.

E is for ENJOY abundantly with joy and thankfulness.

We glorify God as we take pleasure in and give thanks for Jesus, one another, our own life, and the work of God.

The church is God's plan for establishing His kingdom.

The church is God's design for fellowship and ministry.

The church is God's structure for equipping the saints and spreading the gospel and reaching the lost.

Matthew 16:18

Jesus said, I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

As we walk in the Spirit, Jesus works through us, and He builds His church.

Discussion Questions

Can you think of any examples of sowing and reaping in Scripture or in life?

One of the things difficult about sowing and reaping is that what you sow doesn't look like what you reap. What are your thoughts on this idea?

Why do you think people think they can fool God?

How can we avoid Satan using our sowing and make sure we are sowing for Christ's kingdom?

What opportunities do we have to sow good seeds in our lives?