

April 27<sup>th</sup>

## YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

*“Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.””*

**GENESIS 42:21**

**G**od helps those who help themselves. You reap what you sow. Money is the root of all evil. Cleanliness is next to godliness. Be sure your sin will find you out. Which of these statements is found in the Bible, and which ones are not found in the Bible? Take a few minutes to think through each statement. There are two statements found in the Bible and the other three aren't found in the Bible. Still guessing? Reaping what you sow in this life is found in Galatians 6. Be sure your sin will find you out is found in Numbers 32. Galatians 6 describes what Joseph's brothers are discovering in Genesis 42. What is God saying here and what is He trying to teach us?

Do you see the brother's statement in verse 10? “We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.” What's interesting here is that they are technically telling the truth. Joseph has accused them of being spies sent out to spy out the land. They aren't spies. However, they are not honest men. These same men are the ones that about fourteen years ago hated their brother, sold him, and lied to their father about it. They are certainly not honest. But here in this chapter, they see themselves as innocent! But God knows the truth. And they finally admit that the words of Joseph while he was in the pit have haunted them for a decade. Observe what they say to each other. It's not just one brother that's making the statement. It's several of them: “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” The brothers see here that they are reaping what they have sown. They sowed destruction, hatred, and deceit and now it's going to be paid back to them. Just like their brother Joseph was innocent and didn't deserve to be thrown into the pit and sold into slavery, they are not spies sent into the land. Do you see how God has flipped the script here? They claim innocence, but God shows them that they are not innocent. They may have been honest about being spies, but they are guilty of bitterness and hatred for their brother. But that's not all. They expose their evil hearts with another statement in verse 28, “what is this that God has done to us?” They expected to get away from the guilt and shame of their sin. But God. God can't be mocked. Your sin will find you out.

Men, what does God teach us here? In our “Men that Matter” devotions we've come across mostly godly men. But here we find ungodly men. And we can be quick to point the finger and call them out as sinners. Make no mistake about it, they are sinners...and so are we. We can be dishonest. We can be proud. We can attempt to escape God. And we are tempted to have self-righteous pride that we aren't as bad as our neighbor or coworker or friend. But God. God gives you a mirror today. A mirror to hold up to our faces to see that these brothers are more like us than unlike us. But God. God comes to us and offers a Substitute. Jesus rescues us from ourselves and offers us forgiveness. We can face our sin and temptations not because of how righteous we think we are, but because Jesus took our condemnation and shame. We have freedom in Christ. The question is...will we live like it?

***Spend some time thanking God for how He disciplines His children because He loves them. Ask Him to sharpen your heart to be more like Him today.***

**Galatians 6:1-10**