

## Sowing Faithfully

Galatians 6:7-10

### Preface

Last week I showed a little video about a lady who said she wanted to serve Jesus but wasn't willing to leave the comfort of her recliner. We talked about why we are here on earth and God's intent to do a great work through our life.

This week I would like to continue that thought as we look at working for our Lord.

### Scripture Text

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup>The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:7-10 NIV

### Introduction

As Paul writes to the Galatians he speaks of serving the Lord. Much like his discourse on running the good race, he makes it clear that serving is not always easy.

Paul uses the analogy of sowing seeds and reaping what you sow. Almost every mother has reminded her child, "You reap what you sow"?

As believers we are called to work for our Lord. We are called to sow to please the Spirit rather than the flesh. In other words, we should sow for the things of God rather than for our own selfish desires and wants.

Verse 7 states emphatically, **"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."** The Greek word translated be mocked literally means "turn up the nose at." In other words, don't kid yourself; you cannot turn up your nose up at God.

Every person will all reap what they sow! It's a law of the universe just as sure as gravity and rotation.

So how do we learn to sow faithfully as Christians?

## 1. Sowing faithfully requires perseverance

*"<sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good..."*

This idea that you reap what you sow is more than meets the eye. Sure, it means the obvious. If you plan corn you will yield corn and if you plan beans you will harvest beans.

But any farmer will tell you that successfully farming requires much more than just putting seed in the ground. In order to have a really successful crop, one must tend to the plants continuously.

One must be faithfully committed to the crop throughout the process in order to have a successful yield.

Paul said "Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Another way of putting it is **"You can't sow and go."** You must be faithful and persevere.

Illus: I know I will catch all sorts of business for what I am about to tell you but here goes. This summer I planted seeds for about a dozen tomato plants. I only got 4 tomatoes from 12 plants. And those 4 tomatoes were not anything to brag about. In fact they were shameful.

The problem was that I practiced "sow and go". I planted the seeds and let them go. Sure I watered them when I thought about it. I even put a little sevin dust on them. But I did not give them the attention they needed. As the first few tomatoes became ripe, I realized they had all manner of problems. So I gave up.

Too often that is what Christians do in their work for our Lord. The first time they hit a bump they give up. Often Christians give up when they don't see immediate results or when they don't get the support and encouragement they feel they deserve.

If God leads you to a ministry you must remain faithful regardless of the circumstance. Don't blame others if they aren't called to your same ministry. God calls us to different areas of service. What is a calling for one person isn't necessarily for the next.

You and I need not be concerned with the ministry of others. We simply need to remain faithful to that which God has called us.

## 2. Sowing faithfully involves opportunity

<sup>10</sup> *Therefore, as we have opportunity,,,"*

As believers, we must look for and seize the opportunities to sow our seeds of faith. God places people in our paths that need our encouragement. People need to hear about the grace of God and we are the media of communication.

God can provide us with all sorts of opportunities to do his work. Often those opportunities are unique and unexpected but we must learn to recognize them.

Illus: (Stummwear.com) I was recently reminded of just how exciting and unique opportunities can be when sowing for God's work. I met a young lady in downtown Fairhope who caught my attention with her mixture of business and the gospel.

Her website reads: At 16, Nicole unexpectedly met Jesus. This divine providence set in motion a miraculous chain of events that led to a family united in Christ, a nationwide business and an expanding ministry.

Just months after Nicole's salvation experience, in the fall of 2007, Nicole "borrowed" a guitar string and pick from her boyfriend with the simple intent of creating a personal keepsake. When she wore this primitive guitar string bracelet to school, friends all asked how much she would charge to make one for them!

Sensing a market in the making, Nicole relayed the experience to her father. They began to imagine and explore the business possibilities. StrummWear is a total family ministry. Through Nicole's business, our family is dedicated to reaching others with this life-changing testimony.

The message is simple and beautiful... Repent and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the one true living God and you will be saved. *The LORD will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the house of the LORD. - Isaiah 38:20*

Every package that reaches customers' hands carries this Bible verse. StrummWear is more than a fashion business... It's a Christian ministry!

Find your opportunity to sow faithfully. Ask God to show you exciting ways you can serve him.

## 3. Sowing faithfully always involves other people

<sup>10</sup> *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

God is in the business of reconciling people to him. God is a cardiologist of sorts. He is always interested in people's hearts. He intends to use you and me to reach people's hearts.

Sowing faithfully for God cannot be done in a vacuum. You can't be a hermit and serve God.

We must dedicate **all our resources** to doing the work of our Lord. This is speaking of how we sow our time, talents, money and every resource we have. We must be dedicated to sowing the gospel message to those around us and those with whom we have opportunity.

One of my favorite verses is Luke 6:37-38 where Jesus says, <sup>37</sup> *"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."* <sup>38</sup> *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* NIV

Sowing faithfully always involves other people. You can't be a productive Christian and reap a harvest if you are:

- a. judging others
- b. condemning others
- c. unforgiving towards others
- d. indifferent towards others

We must be genuinely compassionate towards others. We must genuinely care about the well being and spiritual condition of those who God has placed in our life.

If you will be faithful in your calling and serve the Lord with gladness, he will use you to reach their hearts.

#### **4. Sowing faithfully will reap a harvest in time**

*<sup>9</sup>Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Whatever your ministry, you must not give up. You must remain faithful for the harvest will come in time.

Do you tithe but sometimes find yourself struggling financially? Do you wonder if it is worth the investment? Be faithful and do not give up; the harvest is coming.

Is there someone you have been trying to reach for the Lord? Is there a child or grandchild you have been praying for? God's word assures us we must not become weary and give up. The harvest is coming.

Is there someone you know who desperately need the Lord? Don't give up. Keep on keeping on for the harvest is coming.

The harvest is coming faithful sowers. The harvest is coming!

#### **Conclusion**

Illus: In college, Mark Bailey a different kind of guy. He had red hair and it was usually pretty long. When we first met, he had a pony tail, something I just think is more suitable for girls.

But Mark was a devoted believer. He was a Christian on fire for the Lord. One year he was President of the Baptist Student Union and I was Vice President.

Mark loved people and had a heart for reaching people with the gospel. He married Vicki and they had a son together. A few years later he was killed in an industrial accident.

Last week our friend Beaver ran into Vicki and their son. As he was talking to her, he began to speak to the son about how much he admired Mark and what a fine Christian Mark was.

Later, Vicki emailed Beaver to thank him for the kind words he said about Mark to their son. She went on to explain that the son was beaming with pride and greatly encouraged by Beavers comments about Mark.

Beaver on the other hand was touched to know God had setup that moment and opportunity for that purpose.