

GALATIANS 6:1-10 – Reaping What You Sow

A. THE PRINCIPLE

⁷*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

- i) You WILL reap what you sow: You just can't CHEAT that.
- ii) You reap the KIND you sow: You can't sow ONE THING & expect to reap ANOTHER.
- iii) You reap in the MEASURE you sow: If you want lots of GOOD FRUIT, sow plenty of GOOD SEED.

→ *What do you understand by the principle of sowing & reaping? In what areas does it apply? How does it apply? Are you conscious of it operating in your daily life? Any examples, for good or bad, when you (or someone else) have clearly reaped exactly what they'd sown?*

What does Paul say?

- * At every turn, you're either sowing SPIRIT seed or FLESH seed. One leads to LIFE; the other to DEATH.
- * The Law works EVERY TIME. You can't CHEAT it & you can't BYPASS it.

The Picture in The Message

Sow FLESHLY WEED SEEDS & you'll inevitably harvest a crop of WEEDS.

Sow SPIRIT SEED & harvest a crop of REAL, ETERNAL LIFE.

→ *Give some examples of fleshly weed seeds. What about Spirit seeds.*
→ *What do you harvest if you sow 'weed seeds'? What contrasts fleshly weed seeds from Spirit seeds? How do you know if the seed you're about to sow is a Spirit seed or not?*

JM #1: "If you are not SATISFIED with your harvest, perhaps you should GO BACK & take a look at the SEED you've been SOWING."

→ *"Wise words, but they don't fit very well in our blame culture. Too often people want to apportion blame, when, in reality, they're merely eating the fruit of their own seed." Discuss!*

JM #2: "Look DOWN THE ROAD & ask yourself what you want your life to LOOK LIKE in the FUTURE, then be smart enough to realise that the seed you sow TODAY becomes the harvest you reap TOMORROW."

→ *Is this quote useful? How could you practically apply the idea in your life / relationships / decision-making?*

B. THE PRINCIPLE IN ACTION

v1: It takes MATURITY to RESTORE, to be GENTLE & to JOURNEY with someone on the road to REDEMPTION.

- * If you feel 'stirred' to offer 'advice,' make sure it is not stirred by your own FLESH, but by the SPIRIT.
- * Fleshly seed leads to CORRUPT, POISONOUS fruit; Spirit seed leads to LIFE, HOPE, GROWTH, RESTORATION.

→ *How is the flesh tempted to deal with someone caught in sin? How should the actions of a spiritually mature person differ?*

→ *Why is it dangerous to correct out of a position of frustrated anger, offence or superiority? Where could that lead? How does a spiritually wise & sensitive person correct? Why does a spiritually wise & sensitive person correct? When does a spiritually wise & sensitive person correct?*

v2: Our task is not to ADD to people's BURDENS, but to HELP CARRY them.

- * WW: "The LEGALIST is not interested in BEARING burdens. Instead he ADDS to the burdens of others" (Matt 23:4).

→ *Why do legalists add burdens rather than help carry them? What is it inside of them that makes them do so? [Think of the Pharisees & Jesus]*

→ *How can you help lighten people's loads?*

→ *Are you prepared to let other people help carry your load? If not, why not? What harvest might they receive for doing so?*

v6: Be GIVERS, not just TAKERS (1 Cor 9:11,14).

→ *How does this sowing & reaping law apply financially? How about in the exact context here in Paul's letter? How do financial obedience / disobedience lead to financial harvest or shortage?*

C. THE PROMISE

Anyone WEARY? Anyone WAITING? Ever tempted to QUIT?

Good News: The Law STILL works, ALWAYS works, though the TIMING is out of your CONTROL.

→ *Are you okay with reaping delay? How do you tend to cope? What mechanisms have you developed to deal with it better?*

D. THE CONDITION ON THE PROMISE

You will reap that harvest IF you FAINT NOT.

Why do we faint?

1. Because of a lack of CONNECTION (Ps 84:1-2, John 15:5).
2. Because of a lack of NUTRITION (Matt 4:4, Isa 40:31).
3. Because of a lack of PRAYER (Luke 18:1).

→ *Any other reasons you can think of? Any of those three tend to be a vulnerability for you? Is God, perhaps, calling back to one of them?*

RESPONSE: *Are you feeling faint or weary? If so, how can your group help?*