

Good Seed, Bad Seed

- Sowing & Reaping, Planting & Harvesting – Growing up - our garden - farmers I am familiar with the process of planting, watering, fertilizing, cultivating, and harvesting.

- God uses things that are familiar to us in life to help us to understand His precepts and spiritual principles.

- This concept applies to:

- Relationships with others
- Financial
- Physical
- Spiritual (our relationship with God)

PRAY

READ Genesis 8:22 - from the start God set these things in place

“For as long as the earth endures”

*** 7 observations or points concerning planting and harvesting as it applies to our lives:**

#1 – We will only reap what has been sown

READ - Galatians 6:7-8

- by us

READ – John 4:31-38

- or by others

- We can reap the benefits or consequences of others actions
 - (negative) some have been brought up in a dysfunctional environment

READ – Exodus 20 : 5 & 6

* That shows the heart of our God! MERCY! He longs to pour out His blessings on us. Remember this as we go through this.

- My parents example – sowed into me and I am still reaping the rewards of that every day!

#2 – We will reap the same kind as we sow

READ – Genesis 1:11-12

- This is how God has chosen to set it up
 - Apple seed grow strawberries?
 - Dandelion doesn't decide....
 - Will poor choices produce good fruit?
 - Can we plant anger, jealousy, bitterness, and grow love, and blessings for ourselves?
- Financially – If you didn't save, blew all your \$\$, would you expect a large retirement account?

#3 – We will reap in proportion to what we sow

READ – 2 Corinthians 9:6

- If you spread more seed – DUH!
 - “sow sparingly, reap sparingly”
- Spiritually – Daily devotions – time with God... or not...or little – Result?
- Physically – “I'll do 2 push-ups a day but that's all I have time for”
 - How good of shape will you be in?
- **STORY** – Award winning corn farmer
 - God expects us to not be selfish or greedy
 - Loving and genuinely caring for others is a giant part of who God is and expects us to be.

#4 – We will reap more than we sow

- What? Doesn't this contradict #3?
- #3 is based on what we do
- #4 adds God's economy into the mix

READ – 2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 11 – God WANTS to abundantly bless us!

* If you plant one kernel of corn - - one kernel?

- Avg 800 kernels per cob – 2/stalk = 1600 times increase!

READ – Hebrews 11:6 – Do you really believe that?

- THEN SOW SOMETHING! Give God something to bless!

READ – Malachi 3:10-12 -

There is a misunderstanding sometimes that we will miss out, break even, or even lose by giving our lives to God. THAT IS A LIE!

#5 – We will reap in a different season than we sow

- Just as there are seasons in nature there are seasons in our lives

* QUESTION – plant a tomato seed – grab some tomatoes that afternoon?

*Farming – I saw the seasons (preparing, cultivating, planting, etc. etc.)

STORY – The man who gave up

- Watch and pray for the seasons, be faithful through all seasons, keep planting whenever you can.

#6 – We will reap a full harvest if we do not give up

READ – Galations 6:7-8 (again) **then 9-10**

- Do Not Give Up! There will be frustrating seasons

* Gardening – you have bugs and pests, WEEDS, deer, drought, too much rain, etc. etc. **It takes patience and diligent care!**

In John 16:33 Jesus says – “In this world you will have trouble, but TAKE HEART, I have overcome the world!”

- We know there will be battles – seasons of dormancy, etc.

#7 – We can't do anything about last year's harvest but we CAN about this year's

- Maybe you have only planted bad seeds – you may feel hopeless and like a failure.

TODAY you can begin planting:

- Good Seed
 - Generously
 - Watering, fertilizing, maintaining, weeding
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- Relationships – heal, reconcile, plant
 - Financially – God help me to learn how to responsibly manage
 - Physically – God is our healer, take steps to improve
 - Spiritually – most important – invest, spend time with God, pray, read the Bible, get to know God's voice

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Scriptures

Genesis 8:22 New International Version (NIV)

²²“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Galatians 6:7-8 New International Version (NIV)

⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.⁸Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

John 4:31-38 New International Version (NIV)

³¹Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.”

³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

³³Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

³⁴“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷Thus the saying ‘One sows and another reaps’ is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

Exodus 20:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Genesis 1:11-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹²The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

2 Corinthians 9:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."^[a]

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Hebrews 11:6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Malachi 3:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. ¹²"Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty

Galatians 6:7-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.⁸Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.