

SOWING AND REAPING

Sunday Morning: November 30, 2003

Text: Galatians 6:7-9 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We're going to be talking about sowing and reaping this morning. It reminds me of my grandmother's farm. I wasn't down there when it was planting time, I was always down in there after school was out in the summer and it was time for harvest. But I enjoyed being on the farm. My uncle, he raised cotton, he raised corn and raised maize which we used to call it 'high gear.' I don't know why, but that's what they called it. To me it looked as if today it's bird feed! You know with a great big, you know ** on the end of it with a lot of bird feed in it but anyway. They used that to feed the cows at the end of winter. It was put in a silo and of course they picked cotton and how I remember it, the old fashioned way. They'd pull a bag through the cotton field and pulled the cotton and put them in the bags. I pulled a bag or two, not all day but I had a little fun as a boy. And I did work in the ! cotton field and when I got a little older but one thing I can tell you is this. We planted corn and cotton and high gear but they didn't take the cotton seeds and the corn and the maize in a bucket and mix them all up and put them in the planter and then run through the field after they'd been plowed and plant them in all at one time. Can you imagine harvesting cotton and corn and high gear in the same field on the same row? Well, you know the Lord; what we're looking at this morning is we've got two crops here and we're not blending these crops. In other words we need to know the fact that we don't blend sowing.

I want to read Galatians 6:7-9. We're talking about reaping corruption and reaping life everlasting or everlasting life. Many people will associate everlasting life with salvation and if that's the case then you can work for your salvation because we reap it. That is after we have done some sowing. And salvation is not based upon sowing and reaping. Salvation is based upon believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. Now first of all, we're not to be deceived about what God has said.

GOD IS NOT MOCKED

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; **God is not mocked** [present, to turn up the nose, despised]: for **whatsoever** a man [may] **soweth** [present active subjunctive], **that shall he also reap** (a cash crop).

God is not mocked continually. The word 'mocked' is in the present tense. It has to do with turning up your nose. It has the sense of despising or defying. I just think about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. He mocked them. He says, 'why don't you call a little louder, maybe he's on a trip or maybe his cell phone, you got to call on his sell phone or whatever!' But God's not mocked!

HE DOES WHAT HE SAYS

Lamentations 2:17 The LORD . . . **hath fulfilled his word** that **he** had **commanded** in the days of old: . . .

And I applied that to Genesis!:11-12

SEED YIELD AFTER THEIR KIND

Genesis 1:11-12 And **God said**, Let the earth bring forth . . . 12. And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed **after his kind**, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in

itself, **after his kind** . . .

You don't mock this commandment that God gave. You sow corn, you're going to reap corn. You sow cotton, you're going to reap cotton. You sow beans you're going to have beans. And so when you sow to the flesh, we know that the crop is corruption. You sow to the spirit, we know that the crop has to do with life for the age. We want to look at that a little bit.

And of course we all appreciate the law of the harvest. When you sow one grain of corn, do you expect to get one grain back? No. You want several ears of corn for one or two grains of corn. And so in 2 Corinthians 9

LAW OF THE HARVEST

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this [*He* say], He which **soweth sparingly** shall reap also sparingly; and he which **soweth bountifully** shall reap also bountifully.

So the law of the harvest is, 'you don't sow much, you don't get much'. But you get more than you sow. And you need to realize that. And when we're talking about sowing to the flesh, one prayer I guess you could pray is praying for crop failure. That there'll be a drought, the locust would eat the crop! But you know, it doesn't work that way when it comes to God's economy. And that's what we're talking about this morning. He says you sow with a purpose. You plan your sowing. This is not an accident.

My uncle, he planted cotton one year down by the river, the little river. We used to enjoy going down there and we used to fish for catfish down in the Little River and we used to sleep down there, you know camp out. And of course we had to make sure we knew when the crop duster was coming in! Because if it came in while you were, you know, down there you'd be heading for the creek, head out for the river and jump in to keep from getting dusted. But anyway, one year he would plant cotton down on the Little River and then another year he'd plant corn down there. He did it with a plan. And what we're talking about here is sowing to the flesh with a plan, not an accident. He didn't sow cotton by accident. He didn't sow corn by accident. And that's what this is dealing with. The sowing is with purpose.

YOU SOW WITH A PURPOSE

Galatians 6:8 For he that **soweth** [present active] to his **flesh** shall of the flesh reap **corruption** . . .

The sowing is in the present tense, I believe because it's with purpose. You're continually sowing to the flesh and you're doing it because you want to reap the benefits of sowing to the flesh. When? Now! That's called enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season now. But the future crop is not so pleasant. We'll get into that as we go. It's a planned sowing and a planned harvest. The Levitical law itself told the nation of Israel,

PLANNED HARVEST

Leviticus 19:19 Ye shall keep my statutes. . . . thou shalt **not sow** thy field with **mingled seed**: . . .

We were talking about it, you don't mingle the seed together and stir it up and then sow it. In fact it's also carries the thought of rotating the crops. You need to rotate the crops because each crop takes a certain nutrient out of the soil that another crop would not. So you rotate the crops and plow back the plants after the harvest. Now, in talking about sowing to the flesh in Galatians chapter 5:19-21, we see the seeds of sowing to the flesh, basically speaking.

TO THE FLESH

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are [*these*]; **Adultery**, . .

. 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that **they which do [present, practice] such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

This is in the present tense but it also can be translated 'practice.' So when we practice something, this something we were doing on purpose. This is not just sowing into sin, this is something that you do because you want to and you were planning it. We all sometimes get carried away in something that causes us to stumble but it's not our practice to do that. Now, David is an example and of course the old Testament is a type for us to help us to learn. Now what David sowed was lust.

DAVID SOWED IN LUST

2 Samuel 11:3-5 And David sent and **inquired after** (no accident) the woman. And *one* said, *Is not this Bathsheba*, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? **4.** And David sent messengers, and **took her**; . . .! **5.** And the **woman conceived**,

David stayed home when the kings were supposed to go to war. I think that David was doing this on purpose. I don't think this was just an accident that David happened to be walking from one bedroom to another out on the porch and he looked over in the neighbor's yard and here was a lady bathing over there. He did this on purpose. I'm pretty sure he had seen her before.

I guess you could say, a one night event, a one night stand as they would put it today. And then Nathan the prophet came to see David and he gave him the story and we won't go into the story. But Nathan calls David's sin and here's what Nathan continued.

DAVID PLANTED

2 Samuel 12:9-14 Wherefore hast thou **despised the commandment** of the LORD, **to do evil** in his sight? thou hast **killed** (murder) **Uriah** the Hittite with the sword, and hast **taken his wife** to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

When you just wanted to have a little fun, next thing you know you're over your head. David went over his head! He murdered Bathsheba's husband. I mean, he did it, the Lord said he did it, even though he had Joab push him up underneath the battle where he would have to be killed. But anyway, verse 10. This is the un-planned crop of David.

UN-PLANNED CROP

10. Now therefore **the sword shall never depart from thine house**; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. **11.** Thus saith the LORD, Behold, **I will raise up evil** against thee **out of thine own house**, and **I will take thy wives** before thine eyes, and **give them unto thy neighbor**, and he shall lie with thy wives **in the sight of this sun** fo (broad day light). **12.** For thou didst *it* **secretly**: but **I will do this thing** before all Israel, and before the sun.

Was David planning on this happening in his life? No way? he was not planning it. You think David enjoyed hearing this? No! Do you think you're going to enjoy, 'Depart from me ye workers of lawlessness? No. This is what this is saying I believe, to us, that if you sow to the flesh you're going to of the flesh reap corruption. And in David's situation Absalom ran him out of town, Absalom took his wives you know, and committed adultery with them out in broad daylight and so there fore this was an unplanned crop and it was not pleasing to David. David would not want this to happen. When we have confession of sin here on Sunday mornings before breaking of bread. You know how we do that? Privately! We would not want things to be dragged out before the congregation. It says howbeit

DAVID CONFESSED HIS SIN

13. And David said unto Nathan, **I have sinned against the LORD**. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; **thou shalt not die**.

But that's the only reprieve, he didn't have to die physically but he still had to suffer the sword in his house. He had to suffer what his son's did to each other. You know Absalom killed one of David's sons, anyway, it was a mess.

Now, even the union of David and Bathsheba producing a child in verse 14.

STILL CONSEQUENCES

14. Howbeit, because by this deed thou **hast given great occasion to the enemies** of the LORD to blaspheme, **the child** also *that is* born unto thee **shall surely die**.

We give occasion to the enemy when we practice sin. When we live in sin and we sure don't want the enemy to get glory and honor. We want the Lord Jesus Christ to have the glory and honor. And when we practice sin our enemy gets that glory. So David sowed lust and he reaped corruption.

REAP CORRUPTION

Galatians 6:8 For he that **soweth to his flesh** shall of the flesh **reap corruption**; . . .

What does it mean for us to reap corruption? It doesn't mean that we lose our salvation. I believe it means that we lose our inheritance in the Kingdom. We see that in Galatians 5:19-21.

LOSS OF KINGDOM INHERITANCE

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, . . . **they** which **do** such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God**.

The Kingdom of God is the Millennial reign of Christ. You practice the sins of the flesh, you sow to the sins of the flesh, you will lose your inheritance in the Kingdom. You will not be a sovereign, but you will be a subject. In fact you might even spend time in prison. You'll spend some time where you don't want to be. I'm just thinking about David. When Absalom ran David out of Jerusalem, David had to spend some time where he didn't want to be. He didn't have the conveniences of the throne room in the palace and all of that. So we will be denied access to certain privileges and blessings of the millennial reign of Christ.

If we sow to the flesh, we'll reap undesirable fruit.

UNDESIRABLE CROP

Hebrews 6:7-8 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh off upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, **receiveth blessing from God**: 8 But that which **beareth thorns** and **briers** [*is*] **rejected**, and [*is*] **nigh unto cursing**; whose end [*is*] to be **burned** (suffer loss of a profitable crop).

When I think about God providing for us, in so many different ways. His thoughts toward us are more than can be numbered, his blessings to us, we cannot render up in order unto Him. We are receiving a blessing from God just like the earth receives a blessing from God when it reigns. Now what kind of fruit are we producing because of God's blessing? Are we producing thorns and briers? If we are, we will be rejected. We will be denied. We won't lose our salvation but we will lose our rewards and our inheritance in the coming Kingdom.

REAP AGELASTING LIFE

Galatians 6:8 For . . . he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit **reap** (works) **life everlasting** [agelasting] (not salvation).

Again this is not salvation, 'life for the age' or 'age lasting life' is a reference to the Kingdom. This is what this is dealing with. Inheriting the Kingdom. Inheriting the Kingdom is to have an inheritance in the heavenlies and if you have an inheritance in the heavenlies you'll be ruling and reigning with Christ in His coming Kingdom. 'Age lasting' or 'eternal life is defined for us in 1 John 2:25.

AGELASTING LIFE DEFINED

1 John 2:25 And this is **the promise** that he hath promised us, [*even*] **eternal** [agelasting] **life** (inheritance).

So we're talking about rewards.

OUR INHERITANCE

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, . . . they which are **called might** receive **the promise** of **eternal** [agelasting] **inheritance**.

So Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He has called us unto a heavenly inheritance and if we sow to the flesh, we will forfeit that. And how are you going to feel when you see all that you have done and accomplished in the flesh, go up in smoke? And you're denied entrance into the Kingdom. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth because of that. So we desire to reap life for the age. We desire to enter into a heavenly inheritance and we need to be aware of the fact that if we sow to the flesh we will reap the corruption which we don't want.

Now, what does it mean to sow to the spirit? there's just not enough room on two pages to put all that we could on here! But let's look at this.

SOWING TO THE SPIRIT

Galatians 6:8 For . . . he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit **reap** (works) **life everlasting** [agelasting] (not salvation).

Well, what is the spirit that we are to sow to? I don't believe this spirit is the Holy Spirit. I believe this spirit is defined and pointed out for us in Galatians 4:6.

SPIRIT OF HIS SON

Galatians 4:6 . . . God hath sent forth **the Spirit of his Son** into your hearts, **crying, Abba, Father**.

It's the spirit of His Son, not the third person of the trinity. It's the spirit of His Son. And Jesus Christ cried, 'Abba Father'. Where did He cry that? He cried that in the garden.

THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON

Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things [*are*] possible (confidence in God) unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but **what thou wilt** (confident in His will).

This was His prayer. Sowing to the spirit is doing what Jesus Christ did. Not only in the garden but also in His daily walk with His disciples. I think I've been always seeing the emphasizing the Abba spirit of accepting the will of God for our lives and that's part of it because He did. He says, 'not what I will but what Thou wilt.' But I think another part of sowing to our spirit is being confident in our God. The first part of that verse tells us, "Father, all things are possible unto Thee." We need to be confident in God. He is the One who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He is the One that was involved in creating the heavens and the earth. If He can create the heavens and the earth and the plants and the animals and everything, do you think He can't heal a broken spirit? A broken heart? A sick body? Of course He can! And we need to live

confidently that way. I tell you when yo! u have confidence, you're not easily cast down. And in having an Abba spirit, you do not want to live a life of being defeated. Our God is powerful! He is big! The universe can't contain Him and He can take care of every need.

Another way we minister or sow to the spirit, the Abba spirit is found in Philippians 2:7-8.

OBEDIENT SPIRIT

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of **no reputation**, and took upon him the form of a **servant**, . . . 8. . . he **humbled** himself, and became **obedient** unto death, even the death of the cross.

An Abba spirit is one who is not concerned with what others think. Now, I'm not talking about what others think as far as sin is concerned. Nathan rebuked David saying that the enemy or what you did gave the enemy an advantage. Now, David lost His reputation. Now we don't want anyone losing their reputation because of the sins of the flesh. But if you lose your reputation because you take a stand for the Word of God, that's different. Jesus Christ took a stand for His heavenly Father and it didn't make Him popular. So His reputation wasn't good. They wanted to kill him.

"And He took upon Him the form of a servant." To sow to the things of the spirit is to have a servant's attitude. We need to be serving one another. We need to be serving the Lord. And we do that by His grace and it says that He humbled Himself and became obedient. Part of sowing to the spirit is humility, not being too good to do something. Being willing to do whatever is needed. And also obedience. If you're disobedient, you're sure not sowing to the things of the spirit. And so an obedient spirit is ministering, or sowing to the things of the Abba spirit.

Another way of sowing to that spirit is to have a fervent spirit.

A FERVENT SPIRIT

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, **My meat** is to **do the will of him** that sent me, and to finish his work.

Two things, do the will of the Father and finishing. A lot of us are willing to do the will of the Father until when? It costs too much! He quits! And Jesus didn't quit, it cost Him a lot and so His meat was to do the will of the Father and to finish His work. And Jesus tells us in John 6:27,

NOT MEAT THAT PERISHETH

John 6:27 **Labour not for the meat** which **perisheth**, but for that **meat** which **endureth** unto **everlasting life** (profitable crop), which the Son of man shall give . . .

There is a meat that only does what? Satisfies the flesh. We went out for turkey dinner at the Cracker Barrel on Thursday. We weren't sowing to the spirit! We were sowing to the flesh, that is we had turkey and dressing and ham and sweet potatoes and corn bread and cranberry relish and pumpkin pie! We were sowing to the flesh. Now not the sins of the flesh, until later on in the meal when we ate too much, but anyway!

If we are laboring for the meat which perisheth. In other words if we are laboring to satisfy ourselves, we're laboring for the wrong thing. So Jesus continues, 'don't labor for that meat, but labor for the meat which endureth.' Unto what? The crop! You labor for the meat. What meat? That is doing the will of Him who sent me and finishing His work. You labor for that and you're going to have the crop you want. And that crop is age lasting life. That's a profitable crop. My uncle called that a cash crop. You could take that crop to the bank! And that's what we want to do. We want to have a cash crop, where? In a bank, where? In heaven! We want our

treasures to be in heaven, not down here on the earth. So, we're to labor for the meat. that's part of sowing to the spirit that endureth for life for the age.

Another ministry to the spirit is denying oneself.

DENYING YOURSELF

Matthew 16:24-27 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [*man*] will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will **save his life** (sowing to the flesh) shall **lose** [perish, wrong crop] it: and whosoever will **lose** [perish (sow to the Abba spirit)] his life for my sake shall find it (reap the right crop). 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall **gain the whole world** (flesh), and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall **reward** (reap right crop) every man according to his works (sowing to the spirit of God's Son).

Self denial is ministering to the Abba spirit. And you take up your cross. Taking up your cross is saying, 'not my will but Thine be done,' isn't it? When we take up a cross that God has given us, we're saying, 'Your plan is better than my plan and I'm following You.' That's what the Lord would have us to do.

When we're saving our life, we're sowing to the flesh. That's what that means. When I'm saving my life for who? Myself. What's going to happen? I'm going to lose it. It's not going to be a harvest. Well, the harvest will come in but it'll be a harvest that will provide perishing and it will be the wrong crop. It will be the crop of corruption.

To lose, that is to perish, that is having to deny himself or dying to self. That individual is sowing to the spirit, the Abba spirit. "If he will lose his life for my sake, he shall find it," when? In the age to come. I believe that's when, in fact verse 27 of this passage tells us that when He comes to reward those, everyman according to His works. But let's continue in verse 26.

"But what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own life," what life? Life in the Kingdom. "or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" The word, 'soul' should be translated 'life', in fact it is translated 'life' in verse 24 and 25. The word, 'soul' and 'life' are the same Greek word. So what shall he give in exchange for his life? Nothing! You cannot put down enough money to bring in a corn crop. If it's ruined, it's ruined! The only thing you can do when a crop is ruined by hail or some other means is to re-plow and re-plant. That's it.

So he finishes this up in verse 27, "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels and then He shall reward," that is, provide the crop that you've reaped. "Every man according to his works." That is sowing to the spirit of God's Son, the Abba spirit. But He also will reward those who have done what? Saved their life for themselves. This reward goes both ways. Those who have saved their own life and done their own thing and forgot about the meat that doesn't perish and have done their own thing. They also will be rewarded for their works.

So what are we exhorted to do?

LAY HOLD ON THE BEST CROP

1 Timothy 6:11-12 But thou, O man of God, **flee these** things (sowing to the flesh); and **follow after** (sow to the spirit) righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12. Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on** (reap) **eternal life!**, whereunto thou art also called . . .

What things are we to flee? We're to be fleeing activities that sow to the flesh and we should be following after activities that sow to the spirit, the Abba spirit. And what are they?

Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. That sounds like the fruit of the spirit in Galatians chapter 5, doesn't it? Not all of them are there but it's a good portion of the list.

And we're to be sowing to the Abba spirit that we might reap the fruit of the Abba spirit which is righteousness and godliness and so forth.

The man of God is to fight the good fight of faith and to lay hold on the crop. To lay hold on something is, means that we value it. When you go shopping, women lay hold on what? Their purse! It's valuable! You lay hold on what is valuable. And if we have lost sight of the value of age lasting life, then we're going, it'll be easy for us to sow or begin to sow to the things of the flesh. And so we're to fight a good fight. We're to lay hold on life or age lasting life "for unto we are called."

May the Lord help us to appreciate the fact that we can reap life for the age, we can rule and reign with Christ based upon our performance today. What man today wants us to believe is that there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. And if you note how I quoted that verse, Romans 8:1, I left out that word, "now." "There is **now** no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus" because Jesus Christ is my High Priest not my judge. But in that day there will be condemnation if I sow to the things of the flesh. I'm going to reap those things I don't want. I have no use for it. And may the Lord help us to see that, the value of ministering to the saints that honor and glorify the Father.

Father, I just pray that you bless the message to each of our hearts, that we might apply it in a such a way that we might be found faithful and approved in your presence. That we might hear a 'well done thou good and faithful servant.' Being faithful over a few things that we can rule and reign over many things. Again we thank you for Your Word and for the warnings and for the counsel that it gives us that we may live a life that will be found pleasing to You. For it is in Jesus Christ's name that we pray, amen.