

A Man Reaps What He Sows

Galatians 6:7-8

There are two rules that are absolute in farming. The first rule would be, “A man reaps what he sows.” If we do not sow, we can not expect to reap. We can always reap when we sow. The second rule would be, “We can always reap as much as we have sown.” We shall reap the fruits as much as we work by the sweat of our brow by how much we sow. But people have a tendency to earn easily without any effort by sweat. God allows people to reap what they sow. The Bible says, “A man reaps what he sows.” Our lives are two fold; in some aspects we are like the farmer, and yet we are also like the sewn seed. Let’s think about how we return with songs of joy and bringing in the sheaves with Him.

First, we should sow seeds with tears. There was a young student who wanted to be an artist. He had the desire to be a famous artist. He went to an art gallery owner with a picture that he drew. After appreciating his picture, the art gallery owner said, “I am not sure whether your picture will sell or not within 3 years.” The owner’s answer pained the young student a great deal. Many pictures of the great artists of the day were hanging on the wall. All pictures had a “sold” label. “How long have these pictures been displayed?” “This artist’s picture was sold within 3 days after exhibition.” So this young student asked the artist. “Sir, how can my pictures become sold within 3 days?” The owner answered in a low voice, “Young man! Do not think about selling this picture within 3 days, but draw the picture for 3 years.”

A man reaps what he sows. If you sow “hymn”, joy will be reaped. If you sow “prayer”, God’s power will be reaped. We do not expect “goodness” after sowing “badness”. We do not expect “love” after sowing “hate”. We do not expect receiving admiration while we criticize others. God’s people believe in God’s Word, “A man reaps what he sows.” I pray that you keep sowing something for God until the end of your lifetime.

Second, there is a time to reap. If we sow a crop, we need to wait 1 year. If we sow an apple tree, we need to wait 3 years. We need to wait at least 20 years until a baby become a matured adult.

A pastor who had their heart broken due to their ministry dreamed a dream. In the dream, he tried to cut a rock with a chisel but it was not going to work. Later on, he felt that it was useless cutting the rock and gave up. At that time, God asked him why he gave up on what he was supposed to do. So the pastor answered, “I cannot do it anymore because this rock didn’t break no matter how hard I tried.” God said, “It doesn’t matter whether the rock was broken or not. All you have to do is just cut the rock with a chisel.” After listening to God’s voice, he kept cutting the rock with a chisel and later on it was broken into pieces.

What we must know while we work for God is that we do not work by our own desire, prejudice, and stubbornness. It is even possible when we pray for our own desires and prejudice to get in the way. It is not easy to understand what God’s will is even after we have prayed extensively to God. We need to make an effort to listen to God’s voice by going in front of Him with an uncluttered mind. This is a perfect attitude for prayer. Like the pastor’s story above, in many cases God’s time comes slower than we expect it to come. So we need to have patience. I pray that we should wait for God’s time with patience just as a farmer who sows seeds in the spring, cultivates it all summer long, and waits to reap a harvest in fall.