

Part 6

Written by

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Sowing and Reaping

Genesis 1:12 "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: and God saw that it was good."

Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Isaiah 55:10 "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

In the Old Testament there were laws and offerings which caused the nation, to a certain extent, to live in a certain discipline and helped them to fulfill their responsibility. In the New Testament man's responsibility is to be obedient to God's voice, and then to make the correct choices.

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That which you choose to dwell on or occupy yourself with, will determine what you will experience tomorrow, because everything functions according to the sowing and reaping principle. This principle holds true for finances too. In the New Testament it is about relationships. In order to hear from God, on how much and where to give, requires you having an intimate relationship with Him. You have already brought your tithe to church, but the remaining nine tenths also belong to God. When God lays on our hearts to help someone in need, we sow from this remaining money. We are God's hands and feet through which He meets other people's needs through His provision. God chose to work through people. The only purse available to God to provide for the world's needs, is mine and yours.

James 2:14 "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"

15: If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16: And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17: Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

The big secret is, in faith, to be obedient when God leads us to sow. The money we give is not lost, as it remains seed with the potential to produce a harvest for us. NB! God has already broken the curse of poverty on the cross and we were already blessed in Jesus Christ 2 000 years ago. God's desire is that we are to experience financial blessing, so that He, through our obedience, can provide for other people's needs and be a blessing to them.

2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"

Note Paul's use of words like, "in all things", "always", "all sufficiency" and "abound." It is not God's intention to have "only enough", and to give provisions, "just in time." In the beatitudes

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Jesus describes to what extent we shall receive if we give.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

We have already seen that money wasn't a problem for Jesus. We as people have made money a problem. One of the most funniest aspects of people who are critical about wealth is this:

They accept many principles and truths found in the Word without much effort, but when it comes to finances, then suddenly they have many long and detailed explanations about what the Scripture actually says or doesn't say. Considering they have a problem with money/ wealth, they have to now explain away the wonderful truth. Take for example 2 Cor 8-9. Paul speaks about money, hard cash and wealth. He explains how this congregation gave money, beyond their abilities, in order to help other poor people.

2 Corinthians 8:1 "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2: How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

3: For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;"

2 Corinthians 8:5 "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

Paul says to the congregation to prepare well in advance to give, so that it will be a decent

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offering.

2 Corinthians 9:5 "Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness."

Paul is not ashamed to speak about this issue directly to the people, as he knows the principle of sowing and reaping. If they don't hold onto their money, but rather sow, then the blessing of God can flow into their finances.

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

7: Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8: And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"Listen to what Paul says in the previous chapter.2 Corinthians 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."Jesus became poor for us on the cross. Remember, in this context He was speaking about money, which is part of our inheritance in Christ. Paul confirms this later in one of his letters.2 Corinthians 9:10 "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;

11: Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God."

Look at the consequences of this. Not only does God meet the people's needs through us, but God is honoured through our financial ministry.

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2 Corinthians 9:12 "For the adminis-tration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;"

The questions we must ask ourselves are these: Do you want to contribute to the thanksgiving to God? Do you want God to be honoured? If so, then you need to change your attitude toward your thoughts concerning money.

NB! Of course it is a problem if we just want to collect money to enrich ourselves at the expense of others. Look at the illustration of the Dead Sea. It has such a high salt content that people can float on it. It is actually dead. Why? It has no outlet, only an inlet! When we just want, want, want, but there is no outlet, we become a financial Dead Sea. This is what the Scripture warns against.

1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

If we don't make money the focus of our lives, but rather obedience to God in our relationship with Him, then it is not a problem if we are rich. God is the One who returns a harvest on our seed. It is all about the attitude and focus which is in our heart.

Matthew 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"

1 Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18: That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

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19: Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

For Jesus, it was very important whether people really gave according to their abilities. He noted how many people gave and with what kind of attitude they gave.

Mark 12:41 "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42: And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

43: And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."

The second part of this quote is so often distorted and used to show that the widow's attitude is all that is important. We often hear: "I am allowed to give only a little, as long as I give with the right attitude." This is only half the truth. Jesus knows our abilities, and knows if we give according to them. He sat right at the collection box and watched how much each one gave.