

ENTRUSTED: Principles for Sowing & Reaping

Andy Deane · 1/21/2024 · Selected Scriptures

Today we'll talk about how the biblical principles based on the ancient farming practices of sowing (planting seeds) and reaping (harvesting a crop) relate to the stewardship of the things we care about today.

#1 All future blessings start out as a small seed

- Genesis 1:11, *"Let land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants & trees on the land that bear fruit with seed..."*
- Zechariah 4:10, *Do not despise these small beginnings..the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...*

#2 Absolutely nothing changes until a seed is planted

- John 12:24, *Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*
- Good intentions are nice, but accomplish nothing good. We must move from just thoughts to taking the first step.

#3 The thing we sow is the same thing we will reap

- Galatians 6:7, *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*
- Proverbs 26:27, *Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.*
- This principle should also be seen with lots of hope: You can plant a small seed of Christ-like character today, and that little choice matters because it can only bear good fruit!

#4 We will reap in a different season from when we sow

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-5, *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing...*
- It's so encouraging to know that while we are waiting...God is working!

#5 We always reap more in the future than we sow today

- Mark 4:8, *Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."*
- Slow, faithful, discipleship today, can multiply to last generations into the future!

#6 We can increase our harvest by planting more seed

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, *Remember... Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- God-math is different: Gods blessing on 90% of our income = better than 100% of it without His blessing.
- Proverbs 11:24, *One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

#7 The time to start planting is today

- Ecclesiastes 11:4, *Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.*
- It will never feel like an ideal time to to take the first step of sowing, but you just have to do it in faith.

#8 To reap the harvest, we must be patient & not give up

- Mark 4:26-28, *26 "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night & day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts & grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.*
- Galatians 6:9, *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up.*

In what area of life do you need to plant a seed?

- Your life: implement changes in your finances, health, marriage, kids, career, character?
- Your church: start tithing, start serving, or start a group?
- Hosea 10:12, *break up your unplowed ground...it is time to seek the Lord!*

A great way to learn how to live out biblical financial stewardship is to join us for a free 8-week class.

Timeless Principles to Practice: Biblical Financial Stewardship

- Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm
- Start Date: 1/29/24
- End Date: 3/25/24
- Location: Multi-Purpose Room (3rd Floor)
- Childcare: is available for all eight-sessions for just \$20 total.
- Register: by texting "CLASS" to (951)425-4425.