



The Parish of Peasedown St John

Galatians 6:7-10 - A man reaps what he sows

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

1. Talk Passage – Galatians 6:7-10

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

2. Talk Notes

2.1 Introduction

- ‘What kind of seeds are we sowing in our lives?’ Paul asks the churches of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe in the Roman Province of Galatia. As we thank God today for the Harvest, for his ongoing provision of food, Paul asks us the same question.
- Paul asks us and the Galatians to imagine our lives as a fertile field. In that field (representing our lives) we can either be sowing sinful seeds in which case plants of ‘destruction’ will be growing or we can be sowing spiritual seeds in which case plants of ‘eternal life’ will be growing.
- But make no mistake says Paul ‘*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*’ (vv 7) So if we are sowing sinful seeds in our lives we are guaranteed to reap ‘destruction.’ If, on the other hand, we are sowing ‘spiritual’ seeds we are guaranteed to reap ‘eternal life’.
- Paul also points out that if we are thinking of sowing both types of seed in the field of our lives there will be constant warfare in our field: *live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.*’ (Galatians 5:16-18)

2.2. Sinful Seeds

- So what sinful plants are produced from sowing sinful seeds? Paul is very clear Galatians 5:19-21: *‘The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.’*
- The trouble with sinful seeds is that they always grow into sinful plants - ‘we reap what we sow’. Sinful seeds grow into sinful plants that not only will spoil our lives but will spoil the lives of others. Like weeds, sinful seeds, have an annoying habit of spreading like mad and producing destruction wherever they are planted.
- We often think that our sins do not matter - but all sin spoils something: *sexual immorality, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition* all spoil

- We start by sharing one juicy piece of gossip with someone and before long we are regularly sharing juicy pieces of gossip with everyone. We go out one evening planning to get drunk and before long we are doing that every Friday evening. We take one ecstasy pill at a disco and before long we are regularly taking ecstasy. We visit one pornography site on the internet and before long we are regularly visiting pornography sites. Sinful seeds always start small but they always grow into habits and produce plants of ‘destruction’.
- The Apostle Paul states in another one of his letters to the church in Rome that *‘we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’* (Romans 3:23). What Paul is saying is that left to our own devices we will always sow sinful seeds and produce plants of destruction.

2.3 Spiritual Seeds

- So what do spiritual seeds produce? *‘The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.’* (Galatians 5:22-23) states Paul.
- So how do we sow these spiritual seeds in our field? This is not something we can do on our own. We need God to help us. God did this by sending his Son to deal once and for all with our propensity to sow sinful seeds that unfortunately produce ‘plants of destruction’. The Prophet Isaiah sums this up brilliantly: *‘We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.’* (Isaiah 53:6). It is at the Cross that God deals with the consequences of our sin with the result that we can turn to Him and begin to sow spiritual seeds in our lives.
- Jesus tells his Disciples *‘you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you’* Acts 1:8. The Apostle Paul says: *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?* (1 Corinthians 6:19). With God resident in our lives it becomes easier for us to sow spiritual seeds and produce plants of ‘eternal life’. Does this mean that we never sin again? No. But it does mean that we have a choice.

2.4 What seeds are we sowing?

- Paul challenges us today as much as he was challenging the members of the churches in Galatia. What seeds are we sowing in our lives? Sinful or Spiritual seeds? Let us never forget that ‘a man reaps what he sows.’

3. Questions to consider at home

3.1 ‘A man reaps what he sows’ Do you agree?

3.2 What is the ‘destruction’ that we reap from sowing sinful seeds?

3.3 Would you agree that *‘we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’* (Romans 3:23)? What does this mean for us and the world around us?

3.4 How do we sow spiritual seeds in our lives?

3.5 *‘Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.’* What good things are you and your church doing?

Matthew Street 24th September 2017



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- We often think that our sins do not matter - but all sin spoils something: *sexual immorality, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition* all spoil relationships. Relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, employers and employees and so on.
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