

Money Matters 5

Sowing, Reaping & Generosity

Preamble - What the Bible says

- 31,173 verses in the Bible
- 500 verses on prayer
- Less than that on faith
- 2,350 verses on Money, wealth and possessions
- Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than about faith or prayer
- Jesus spoke more about money, wealth and possessions than heaven and health combined
- This is an important subject
- Money Matters because as our money moves so our hearts move

Money matters because it is a reflection of our priorities, values and commitments. Our cheques stubs', bank and credit card statements, reveal more about our hearts than anything else. **Steve Uppal**

Foundations or paradigms

- We are being encouraged to think God's way, the Bible way.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. **Romans 12.1-2a**

- a. God Owns everything
- b. We are stewards who will give an account
 - Time, Talent, Treasure
 - Relationships, revelation, Opportunity
 - The earth we live on
- c. A persons identity does not come from the abundance of their possessions
 - In the story of the rich fool the problem was not having money
 - The fools problem was what he wanted to do with is money
 - His plans were focused only on eating, drinking, relaxing and making merry
 - He was not rich towards God
- d. Live with a Plan
 - You need a vision
 - You need to work - but build parameters
 - You need to come out from debt
 - Live a plan, within a budget -
- e. Give, Gain, Grow
 - We spoke last week about regular planned giving to the Lord
 - In the Old Testament it was a tithe plus offerings
 - In the `New Testament it was Grace giving - which beyond the tithe
 - We said that the tithe can be starting point, the floor, not the ceiling? They can be the training wheels with which we begin

Introduction

- In the beginning

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."** Then God said, "**I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. Genesis 1:26-29**

- Be fruitful
- Increase
- Multiply
- Subdue
- Have Dominion
- Then given seed

²² "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." **Genesis 8:22**

- This is an immutable law. It cannot be changed
- One of the most important subjects for the believer to understand and apply
- Understanding the subject will answer many questions about where you are today

Key Text

⁶ Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. 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. **Galatians 6:6-10**

Laws of Seedtime and harvest

1. We cannot reap what we did not sow

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. **Galatians 6.7**

- You cannot have a harvest without seed.
- You cannot have a harvest of apples without sowing apple seeds
- You cannot have a harvest of money without sowing money

Remember if you don't continue to sow you won't continue to reap

⁴A farmer too lazy to plant in the spring has nothing to harvest in the fall. **Proverbs 20.4**
Message

2. We reap the same in Kind as we have sown

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. **Galatians 6.8**

²⁴ And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. **Genesis 1:24-25**

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." **Luke 6:37-38**

- You cannot sow discord and produce unity
- You cannot sow lies and produce truth
- You cannot sow sin and produce Holiness
- Seed produces after its kind

3. We reap more than we sow

- We will reap a harvest – natural harvest can be 30, 60, 100 fold return
- Every farmer expects to reap more than he sowed otherwise sowing would be a pointless exercise

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4. We reap in proportion to what we sow

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! **2**

Corinthians 9:6-15

- The greater the need, the greater the seed

- The greater the seed, the greater the harvest

5. We reap the full harvest of the good only if we persevere

- Every seed has a gestation period
- This applies to good and bad seed
- A man once said that many Christians are sowing wild seeds in the week and go to Church on Sunday praying for a crop failure

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and 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. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." **Mark 4:26-29**

- Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
- Watchfulness and Perseverance

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. **Psalms 130:5-6**

- Keep doing good
- Keep sowing
- Keep your confession good and right

6. We can't do anything about last years harvest but we can about this years

- What we have done in the past is past
- Forget what is behind and reach for the prize
- Commit yourself to this years harvest
- Sow the seed needed to bring in the harvest you are believing for

Conclusion - Generous on every occasion

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:19**

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only;

Philippians 4:14-15

- Remember everything you need is hidden in a seed
- Our attitude when we give is more important than the amount we give

"One Man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty" **Proverbs 11.24**

it is possible to give away and become richer. It is also possible to hold onto tightly and lose everything. Yes, the liberal man shall be rich. By watering others he waters himself

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. **2 Corinthians 9.11**