

I Will Always Harvest (Reap) What I Plant (Sow)
Series: Faith, Finances & A Fresh Start
Sermon Outline
January 31, 2021
Kelly Stanley

1. Read Genesis 1:11, Zechariah 4:10 and Job 8:7 from your sermon notes under point #1. The first biblical principle about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: everything in life starts as a seed. The largest Redwood Tree on the planet is around 380 feet tall, but it started from a seed the size of a piece of sawdust. There is infinite potential in a seed. What “seeds” in your life (ex., dreams, achievements, ideas) have you seen grow?
2. Read John 12:24 from your sermon notes under point #2. The second biblical principle of sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: unplanted or unsown seeds harvest nothing. It’s like the old saying on a Coke can: “No deposit, no return.”
 - a. What have been some “seeds” you never sowed or planted? Why?
 - b. God says that sowing (planting) is an act of faith. Do you agree with this. Why or why not? Now look at your answers in the question in “a” above. What does that tell you?
 - c. When I have a need, it is easier to grip, complain, whine, and get angry. John 12:24 stresses: whenever I have a need (ex. time, energy, support, money, relationships, wisdom and etc.), I plant or sow a seed. How could you plant a seed in a need you have?
3. Read Genesis 1:12, 21, 25, Galatians 6:7b, Proverbs 26:27 and Hosea 10:13 from your sermon notes under point #3. The third biblical principle you learned about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: whatever you plant (sow), you will harvest (reap). What goes around, comes around. If you are judgmental, or cheat, or gossip the same will happen to you. Whatever you sow or plant is what you will get back. This is also called the principle of reproduction.
 - a. List some good “seeds” you have sown or planted and you saw this happen in your life?
 - b. List some bad “seeds” you have sown or planted and you saw this happen in your life?
 - c. Ralph Waldo Emerson penned it this way: *“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.”*¹ What kind of seeds are you sowing in your life?
4. Numbers 14:18 talks about the “. . . sins (seeds) of the fathers being passed down to their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even their great-great grand children. The fourth biblical principle you learned about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: You reap what other people have sown.
 - a. What are some good and bad seeds you believe you have experienced from others?
 - b. What are some generational good and bad seeds you believe you have experienced from your family, friends, co-workers, and etc.
 - c. Everything you say and do has consequences — not just for you, but for everyone around you and even for generations to come. Read Joshua 24:15 and John 4:38 from your sermon notes under point #4. In what areas and ways could you draw a symbolic “line in the sand” and say, “This stops with me”?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1 from your sermon notes. The fifth biblical principle you learned about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: the time I harvest (reap) will be different from the time I plant (sow).
 - a. Think back over your life. What are some of the good and bad seeds you planted (sowed) when you harvested them (reaped them), they were different than when you planted (sowed) them. How did that impact your life and others?
 - b. There is always a season between planting (sowing) and reaping (harvesting). While you are waiting, God is working behind the scenes. When and where have you see that is your life?
6. Read Mark 4:8 from your sermon notes under point #6. You learned the sixth biblical principle of about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: you will always harvest (reap) more than you plant (sow). This is also called the principle of multiplication.
 - a. Where have you seen the biggest impact of this in your life in a good way?
 - b. Where have you seen the biggest impact of this in your life in a bad way?

¹<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/416934-sow-a-thought-and-you-reap-an-action-sow-a>.

- c. Read Matthew 5:44 from your sermon notes under point #6. Jesus said that when someone does anything bad or hurtful against you, you are to do four things: love them, bless them, do good to them and pray for them. Who is that for you? How could you love them, bless them, do good to them and pray for them?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 from your sermon notes under point #7. You learned the seventh biblical principle of about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: you can increase what you reap (harvest) by sowing (planting) more seed. This is the biblical principle of proportion.
- Read the explanation for the Greek New Testament word translated as “cheerfully.” This is a laughing matter to God, in a good way. In what ways do you hilariously do this?
 - A seed is anything I value and give away. If I give wisdom away, then I get more wisdom back. If I give love away, I get more love back. If I give my energy away, I get more energy back. If I give my money away, God makes sure I get more back. If I give my time away, I get more time back. Where could you start giving away what you value unselfishly in some area where you are not getting paid back?
 - Read Proverbs 11:24 from your sermon notes under point #7. Where have you seen this true in others and in yourself?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 11:4 and Ecclesiastes 11:6 from your sermon notes under point #8. You learned the seventh biblical principle of about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: the time to sow or plant is now. This is the principle of compounding interest. Coveting refers to the uncontrolled desire to acquire. Read the explanations for the Hebrew and Greek words translated as “covet.” Look over your life, when have you seen these explanations lived out in your own life?
- You do not wait for a better time to plant or sow. The sooner, the better. Where in your life have you been thinking or saying, “One of these days. I’m going to . . .”, but you have not started? Why?
 - Psychologist Charlene Johnson says, “Perfection paralyzes potential.”² If you wait for perfect or ideal conditions, you will never get anything done. What do you think is paralyzing you from sowing or planting that seed?
 - Read 2 Corinthians 9:10 from your sermon notes under point #8. God has supplied you with seed (ex. talents, abilities, intellect, skills, possessions, time and etc.). Where would you like to see God increase your resources to produce a great harvest of generosity in you?
 - Our words are seeds. Are you watching your words around your family, friends, co-workers, fellow students, neighbors and etc. What are some words you have sown that you regret? What was the harvest from them?
 - Read 1 Corinthians 9:11 from your sermon notes under point #8. The Bible says that having spiritual conversations with others is planting or sowing seeds. Where have you seen the reaping or harvesting of this in your life with others?
9. Read Mark 4:26-29 from your sermon notes under point #9. You learned that the ninth biblical principle of about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting) is: reaping a harvest requires patience and persistence.
- When was a time in your life when impatience ruined the day?
 - When was a time in your life when patience and persistence won the day?
 - Read Galatians 6:9-10 from your sermon notes under point #9. What is the passage saying to you about sowing (planting) and reaping (harvesting)?
 - Everyone has “crop failures.” You can’t do anything about the crop failures of the past. You’re going to have to learn to live with the consequence of your failures. So, what do you do with “crop failures?” You start focusing on the long-term harvest in your life, not the short-term pleasure. Look at your own “crop failures.” How could you do this?
 - Read Psalm 126:5-6 from your sermon notes under point #9. Notice the movement in this passage: from weeping to singing and praising. Question: What loss has you grieving? What crop failure has you grieving? Poor money management? Words you cannot take back? Failures you cannot undo? What have you been grieving that could turn into singing and praising? How could this happen?
 - Mourning is okay; moaning (ex. griping, complaining, whining) are not. Are there any areas in your life where you are sowing the seeds of moaning rather than mourning? God is waiting on you to plant some seeds.

²<http://www.chalenejohnson.com/how-to-overcome-paralysis-from-perfectionism-reach-your-goals/>.