

unCERTAINty – Surviving this Economic Storm
Consequences...Good & Bad
March 7 & 8, 2009

Don't be misled, you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

Galatians chapter 6 verse 7 (894)

- You're misled (*deceived, your mind has wandered from the truth*) if you believe that you'll actually harvest something different than what you plant
- Why? Because God won't allow it
- "You will always harvest what you plant"

This verse is teaching us God's principle of consequences

- It has NOTHING to do with forgiveness!
- ***If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John chapter 1 verse 9 (941)***
- God forgives me every time I really ask Him
- BUT forgiveness ≠ no consequences!!
- Forgiveness means God wipes away my sin NOT my consequences (OUCH!)

How this works...

Jesus said, "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you."

Matthew chapter 7 verse 12 (738)

- This isn't so others will "do to you" what you've done to them...
- It's because God will "do to you" or allow you to experience what you've done to others

Jesus said, "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven."

Luke chapter 6 verse 37 (786)

- "judge" = come to conclusion about, write-off
- "condemn" = pronounce guilty, pass judgment on
- "forgive" = to release, set free

Jesus said, "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." *Luke chapter 6 verse 38 (786)*

- My generosity in some way determines the generosity that flows back to me through God & others
- If I am selfish, stingy, I can expect little back...
- If I am generous, God is VERY generous back to me

They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind (hurricane!).

Hosea chapter 8 verse 7 (683)

- When my life & relationships are filled with confusion, I will harvest hurricane-force-winds of confusion
- As a parent, when my life is filled with confusion, the lives of my kids will be filled with hurricane-force-winds of confusion

Remember this, a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. 2 Corinthians chapter 9 verses 6 & 7 (886)

- If I'm generous towards God & others, God will be generous towards me
- If I am stingy towards God & others, God will be stingy towards me
- It's not just what I give. It's how I give.

Lessons Learned...

- Everything I do in life has consequences...good or bad
- My actions can be forgiven...but I cannot escape the consequences of my actions
- Even when I sin & don't get caught, I don't get away with it. Because I will harvest my consequences. God is not mocked.
- What I do today (*good or bad*)...I harvest down the road
- So be patient when planting good seed
- Act quickly & with wisdom when it comes to planting bad seed, because the bad consequences live long after the bad seed is planted!

Changing what I harvest...

- God convicts me of my sin
- I repent, confess my sin to God
- I claim His forgiveness, get up & start / keep running my race of faith
- I change my actions today (even if I don't feel like it)
- I keep with my new actions - day after day - realizing that what I plant today will give me a new & better harvest down the road
- Life change = planting different actions & behaviors long enough so I finally enjoy the good fruit of this new harvest in my life!!!
- Patience & persistence is the key in getting a good harvest!!!

More

- Spend time studying each of the verses used in this talk. How does your life measure up to each? What is your harvest in each of these situations? What is God asking you to change in each of these areas?
- What changes is God asking you to make to your financial life so you can harvest blessing? How will you go about planting this new & good seed?
- Why not come out & be part of our prayer & discussion group on all of this? We'll meet at the church this Wednesday night, at 7 pm.

Next weekend: Danger! Debt!