

Be Encouraged

Keeping A Promise

5/13/2001

Reading: [Ecclesiastes 5:4-5](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 9](#)

Introduction:

1. [Judges 11:29-40](#)—Jephthah's vow
2. Could you keep a promise like that? Be Careful!

#1 Sowing and Reaping

A. A Basic principle

1. You don't plant anything you don't reap anything.
2. You plant weeds you get weeds
3. You plant grain or fruit, you get grain or fruit

B. It applies to living as well:

1. You sow wild oats in your youth, you get wild oats as an adult
2. [Galatians 5:8](#)—For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

C. In [2 Corinthians 9](#), it applies to grace and giving

1. If you provide grace to others you will abound in grace yourself.
2. Similar to mercy, if you give it, you will receive it. If not, you won't!
3. It's not a matter of thinking God will provide; it is a fact that God DOES provide! [v. 10](#)

#2 Planning and Completing

A. Planning your work

1. My dad told me to stay out of the garden when I was a boy, and I've done a good job of staying out of it ever since.
2. But I do know a few things:
 - a. You don't plant cucumbers next to cantaloupes.
 - b. You have to plant corn several rows thick to get them to pollinate
 - c. You don't make your rows up and down the hills!
3. Paul and the Corinthians made a plan to help the poor saints in Jerusalem a year in advance and now it was time to fulfill the plan.

B. Working your plan

1. It wasn't just a matter of saying it, it was a matter of doing it.
2. We have to do the same thing in every area of Christianity.
 - a. [Galatians 6:10](#)—Helping the needy, especially our own (notice in this context he again talks about "sowing and reaping")
 - b. [Galatians 5:1-5](#)—Restoring the fallen.
 - c. [Matthew 28:18-20](#)—Saving the lost!

#3 Praising and Pleasing

A. Who provides the seed to sow? [v. 10](#)

1. God does!
2. God provides what we have to give!
3. God provides the abilities we can use!
4. God not only WILL provide, but also DOES provide and IS providing and HAS provided!
5. Never forget what He does and did and will do!

B. Pleasing God

1. Keep your word
2. The Corinthians promised a gift for the poor saints [v. 5](#)
3. We promised our spouses faithfulness.
4. We promised our Lord obedience.
5. What other promises? It is not only unwise, to renege, it is sin.
 - a. What have you told God you would give?
 - b. What have you told God you would do?

Conclusion:

1. What seeds are you sowing in your life? You will reap the harvest!
2. What plans have you made? Are they just plans?
3. Does your life praise God as well as please Him?
4. If not, repent now and give your life to him.
5. If you have not obeyed the gospel, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.
6. If you need to return to the Lord, do it now!