

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Galatians 6:7 (1801)

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Galatians 6:7 NIV ⁷ *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

I. You will reap what you sow

a. This is an especially challenging concept for a young person to accept

Genesis 37:2-4 NLT *Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. ³ Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. ⁴ But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.*

Genesis 37:8 NLT *...they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.*

b. In light of this reality only a fool plants without thinking

II. You will reap more than you sow

a. Joseph learned the hard way about the “return on investment”

Genesis 37:19-20 NIV ¹⁹ *“Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. ²⁰ “Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams.”*

Hosea 8:7 *They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.*

b. Somewhere along the line, Joseph woke up to this reality

Genesis 39:4 NIV *Joseph found favor in [Potiphar's] eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.*

Genesis 39:6-8 NIV *Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” ⁸ But he refused.*

Matthew 13:24-26 NIV ²⁴ *Jesus told them another parable: **The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.***

III. There will be a period of time between sowing and reaping

a. God honored Joseph's choices... but it took time to fully develop

Genesis 39:20-22 NIV *But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.*

Genesis 40:23 NIV *The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

Genesis 41:41 NIV *Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."*

b. There is always an opportunity to sow better seed