**THE DECEPTION OF REAPING**

Sunday School Lesson 2

*Deceptions of the Devil*

Galatians 6:7

8/29/2021

**Introduction:** For our second lesson on the deceptions of the Devil, we are going to look at the deception of reaping. There is a law found in the Bible regarding the topic of reaping. The Bible tells us that whatsoever we sow we reap. One cannot dispute this Biblical law. It is even seen in the laws of nature that the Lord has established. We cannot expect to reap something different from that which we have sown. It would seem to me that this law is obvious and straightforward for us to understand. Yet, the Bible warns us not to be deceived regarding this matter of sowing and reaping. This tells us that there is a potential here for Satan to deceive on this topic. Sadly, I have personally witnessed this deception at work in the hearts of many Christians and unbelievers alike. This deception is especially prevalent among younger Christians who have not yet had the opportunity to observe much reaping. Yet, it is not limited to only youth in its scope. Even those who have personally witnessed the principle of reaping that which is sown somehow fall prey to this deception as well. Why does this happen? What is so enticing about the deception of reaping something other than that which is sown? I believe the answer to this question is simple, and we are going to look this morning at the reasons why people are deceived about reaping by the Devil.

1. **THE DECEPTION OF REAPING STARTS BY QUESTIONING GOD’S AWARENESS.**
2. **Notice that part of the deception of the Devil is mocking God’s knowledge and justice (Galatians 6:7; Isaiah 29:15; Jeremiah 23:24).** The major deception regarding reaping is that the Devil tries to convince us that we won’t reap because the Lord did not even acknowledge our sowing. Of course, we know that this is a lie. The Lord sees all things. The prophet Isaiah wrote that woe is upon those who seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord. These same people question who sees them or knows them. From Galatians 6, we see that the first warning in our deception is that God is not mocked. No matter what the Devil may whisper to us, we must understand that the Lord will not sit idly by and allow Himself to be mocked. As we noticed when we were considering His attributes, the Lord requires justice. There are those in this country who make a mockery of our justice system. They know how to work around it. They know how to avoid getting caught. There is no such possibility with the Lord’s justice system. You cannot skirt around it. You cannot escape it. I believe Satan uses the imperfect justice in the world as evidence to those who seeks to deceive. He shows them that they can get away with it.
3. **Notice that we can be sure that our sin will find us out (Numbers 32:23; Joshua 7; 2 Samuel 11).** To continue the previous thought, we know that the Bible tells us that we can be sure that our sin will find us out. We need to remind ourselves of this regularly. The Devil will directly contradict this, as he always contradicts God’s Word. Achan is a prime example of the deception of reaping. He knew that the punishment for what he had done would be swift and harsh. He understood the principle of sowing and reaping. Yet, Satan deceived him into thinking that he could sow one thing and reap something different. He tried to hide the thing from the Lord. This is a fool’s errand. Achan is not the only foolish person we find in the Bible. The great King David was also fooled in this matter of sowing and reaping. When he sinned with Bathsheba, he was deceived into thinking that he would not have to reap any consequences from the affair. Despite his best efforts to conceal the situation, his sin found him out. He could not run from it. The Devil tempts us to sow, and then he leaves us in the bushes like Adam and Eve to await the reaping that comes from the hand of the Lord.
4. **THE DECEPTION OF REAPING USES TIME TO VALIDATE ITS DECEPTION.**
5. **Notice that the Devil’s deception does not allow proper time for a true harvest (Jeremiah 51:33; Matthew 13:30; Revelation 14:15, 12:9; Leviticus 26:5).** Understanding the principle of harvest time is essential if we want to avoid being deceived by the Devil. The Word of God shows us that there is a specific harvest time after the sowing has been done. This tells us that the reaping often does not happen right away. Satan does not want you to consider this, and it may be that he does not consider this for himself. While he has been cast out of Heaven, he has yet to experience his own harvest time where he will be locked up for all of eternity. When the deception of reaping first initiates, the Devil may use examples of others who have not reaped as temptation to us. After we have fallen into his deception, then he will use our own lack of reaping as evidence that reaping will not occur. Satan essentially provides us with a poison that kills in an hour, and then he waits five minutes to show us that the poison is totally fine. There is a harvest time. There is a time of reaping. Do not be deceived!
6. **Notice that the deception regarding the harvest time affects both fleshly and spiritual sowing (Galatians 6:8-9).** We’ve already looked at the content of Galatians 6:7, but let’s not ignore what is found in the two verses following it. Verse 8 makes it clear to us that there is sowing of the flesh and sowing of the Spirit. Of course, we ought to strive for the sowing of the Spirit. Verse 9 deals with this topic of harvest timing. It encourages those that are sowing of the Spirit to be patient in waiting for the reaping time. This tells us that the Devil does not just try to deceive us to sow of the flesh. He also seeks to deceive of regarding the sowing of the Spirit. He uses the same argument of timing to try to convince us that the sowing that we are doing does not matter. His desire, of course, is to encourage the bad and discourage the good. It is his two-fold deception of reaping. We must not let the Devil deceive us while we are faithfully sowing for the Lord. We must understand that reaping time is just as necessary for the spiritual sowing as it is for the fleshly sowing.
7. **THE DECEPTION OF REAPING ASSUMES THE REAPER IS ALWAYS THE SOWER.**
8. **Notice that the law of sowing and reaping does not require the reaper to be the sower (James 5:4; John 4:36-38; 2 Kings 4:18; 1 Samuel 8:12).** For this thought, we must consider a few of the many verses that directly regard reapers who were not the initial sowers. While it is indisputable that the harvest produces will match the seed planted, we must understand that the person collecting the harvest may be different than the one who planted it. The deception of the Devil uses this as more evidence of his deception. When the reaping is not seen directly of the one who has sown it, the Devil will convince that the reaping never occurred. He will never regard the reaping of others for the things which we have sown. This is a sad and especially painful trick of the Devil. Many are deceived into thinking that there is no reaping for their sowing, but the truth is that others are reaping what they have sown. The most common example of this is found in parents and children. While the child is not judged of the Lord for the sins of the parent, the child is often a recipient of the harvest that they have planted. (David’s son)
9. **Notice that victims of this deception have fallen prey to great selfishness (Isaiah 39:8; Leviticus 23:22; Ruth 2:3; Job 24:6).** Our previous observation concluded with the reference to children as reapers for their parents. This was the case with King Hezekiah. He faltered, and he was told that the future generation would have great trouble. He was fine with it because it was not in his generation. He did not have to deal with it. The deception of reaping draws upon the selfishness of mankind. The mentality is that as long as I don’t have to deal with the reaping, then it’s not really my problem. That is a Satanic mindset. It is an anti-Gospel mindset. The sower and reaper should be rejoicing together. Yet, many reapers are found in despair while they deal with the reaping of what someone else sowed. The Israelites were instructed that the most vulnerable of their society would be reapers together with them in the harvest time. Ruth was one such reaper. She benefited from sowing of Boaz. Imagine how many would suffer when an Israelite would sow sparingly or wickedly!
10. **THE DECEPTION OF REAPING REGARDS UNWANTED REAPING AS UNJUST.**
11. **Notice that the Bible plainly shows us what our sowing will produce (Galatians 6:8; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Hosea 10:12-13, 8:17; Proverbs 22:8; Psalm 126:5; Job 4:8).** We do not have to guess what we will reap from what we sow. If we sow to the flesh, we reap corruption. Sow to the Spirit; reap life everlasting. Sow sparingly; reap sparingly. Sow bountifully; reap bountifully. Plow wickedness; reap iniquity. Sow to yourselves in righteousness; reap in mercy. Sow the wind; reap the whirlwind. Sow iniquity; reap vanity. Sow in tears; reap in joy. Plow iniquity and sow wickedness; reap the same! Friends, the Bible is so easy for us to read and understand. In the same way that we do not have to guess what orange seeds will produce, we can know exactly what our sowing in life will produce. We know that God is a God of order. Every plant comes forth after its own kind. The Devil wants to deceive us into thinking that the reaping will somehow not match the sowing. It’s not possible!
12. **Notice that when the deception of reaping is confronted, it will deny what was sown (Malachi 1:6-7, 2:17, 3:8; Jeremiah 12:13; 1 Corinthians 9:11).** The deception of reaping is confronted when the sower sees the unpleasantness of that which is reaped. The Devil still wants for them to continue in their delusion. His last effort is to tempt the sower into rejecting what was sown or even placing blame on what someone else has sown (Ahab/Elijah). The Israelites dealt with this temptation in the book of Malachi. The Lord was punishing them for their wickedness. They were reaping exactly what they had sown. When they saw how unpleasant it was, they should have determined to repent and start sowing righteousness. Instead, they chose to question whether they ever sowed wickedness to begin with. It was easier to question the sowing than to accept the reaping. This allowed them to continue in their wickedness without any change. Let’s acknowledge the law of sowing and reaping. Reap to the Spirit!