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| John 13:34-35Gal 6:6-10 | Seeds and Harvest | Pinelands – 9am – 06/10/2024Thornton – 10:30am – 06/10/2024 |

***WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MORAL TO THIS STORY?***

There was once a man - had **TWO SONS**

 When they came of age left home to…

- seek their fortunes

 - make a living

 Traveled far and wide

 - eventually settled in a city far from home

THE ONE BROTHER,

 - very good with money

 - real business mind

 **RESULT :** - before long he became rich

 - because he had money it was

 easy to make money

 **SOON** - He became very wealthy

  *(what things do you think he had ?*

 *- cars, houses, farms, etc.)*

THE OTHER BROTHER,

 - very artistic *(painting, carving)*

 - good with his hands

 **BUT** - never really made it big

 HOWEVER - he was happy

 - made enough money to live

 *(did he have cars, houses* ***– NO!*** *)*

THE **SAD THING** IS :

- The rich brother began to get embarrassed

about his poor brother.

 - Made excuses not to see him…

 - Lived in the *wrong area,*

 - had the *wrong friends*,

 - *socially not acceptable*, etc.

 - As time passed it got worse and worse.

 *(never wanted to see his poor brother)*

 - Eventually they never used to see each other

 - the rich brother kept getting richer…

 **…and…**the poor brother battled along.

**ONE DAY** THE FATHER CAME TO TOWN

 He chose to go and **stay with** the poor brother

- in fact he did not even tell rich brother

he was coming to town.

 When the rich brother heard this he was angry and upset:

 **- Why ?** - he had more to offer

 - he had a better house

 - he had servants

 **WHY did his father…**

- choose to stay with his poor brother ?

 - not tell him he was coming to town ?

 So he tracked his father down

 *(did not know where his brother stayed anymore)*

 - When he found him he asked :

 ***- Why are you not staying with me ?***

 I have better everything: houses, servants,

 food, bed, area, etc.

FATHER - *"You are not my son."*

RICH SON - "I must be your son because you are my father."

FATHER - "You are not my son and I am not your father."

RICH SON - "But I must be your son. If this is my brother then

 I must be your son and you my father."

FATHER - "When you treat your brother like a brother…

 **THEN**… I will treat you like a son,

 **BUT**… until then you are not my son."

**What do you think is the moral to the story?**

 ***(Open Sharing)***

**READ:**  **John 13:34-35 + Galatians 6:6-10**

A recap on the last two Sunday sermons… *(Just to refresh your memory)*

**2 Sundays ago** the theme was… ***“What does Got want from you?”***

 God wants us to grow fruit and **Good Healthy Fruit** is grown by…

 ***Reaching out to others…***

 *Helping, Caring, Giving, Sharing,*

*Walking with, Meeting Needs, Serving…*

**Last Sunday** the theme was… ***“The Way we do it.”***

 **Planting seeds** one person and one action at a time.

 We sow and others reap and…

we reap where others have sown.

 In every moment we can feed the Love of Jesus

 Into other people’s lives.

**Today** I hope to package those two sermons…

into a take away package for you.

Let me read our **Galatians** passage again for you but from

Eugene Petersen’s translation The Message…

**Galatians 6:7-10** *(The Message)*

***Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.***

***So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.***

Our acts of… giving and planting

sewing the love of Jesus into other people’s lives

is **NEVER WASTED.**

 Those acts **are NOT** like pebbles dropped in a pool…

 That make a few temporary rippled then sink to the bottom.

 They are SEEDS planted in the soil of life…

 They will come up one day, they will bare fruit on day.

 **THE HARVEST is inevitable!!**

Note **Verse 7**… ***“No one makes a fool of God.***

***What a person plants, he will harvest.”***

Decisions… are Seed

Attitudes… are Seed

Acts… are Seed

Prayers… are Seed

Thoughts… are Seed

 ***AND…***  **ALL OF IT…** Will come to **HARVEST.**

**BUT…** And I have said it often… It takes time to Grow

**Eugene Petersen** says…

***“The person who looks for quick results from planting seeds***

***of well-doing will be disappointed.”***

*If you want an apple for lunch tomorrow, it will do you no good…*

 *To plant an apple seed today.*

There are long stretches of ***darkness, silence, struggle and invisibility***

 That **separate** planting and reaping.

During those stretches we must…

 Weed, Nurture, Water and still plant other seeds…

 The task of planting is endless and sometimes tiring.

 There appears to be little reward or appreciation…

 ***BUT…*** **We continue.**

As **Paul** says in verse 9…

 ***“Let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.”***

God Calls us to… ***LOVE ONE ANOTHER…***

 **By Planting Seeds… *Keep doing Good***

***"By our love for one another others***

 ***will know that we are… CHRIST FOLLOWERS !!"***

***KEEP DOING GOOD !!***

**John 13:34-35** *(GNT)*

And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

**-**

**Galatians 6:7-10** *(GNT)*

Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant. If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life. So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. So then, as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith.

**Galatians 6:7-10** *(The Message)*

Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.