

"Sowing and Reaping"

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Scripture Lesson: - Hosea 8:7

Text: - Hosea 8th chapter

Introduction: - A great spiritual law announced by the prophet Hosea is that of sowing and reaping. He says: For they have sown to the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind. The fundamental laws of sowing and reaping are as certain and dependable in the realm of the spiritual as in the realm of the physical.

I.

We are certain to reap when we sow. We reap in the kind that which we sow. If we sow wheat, we shall reap wheat. If we sow thistles, we shall reap thistles. We shall reap more than we sow, for a seed multiplies itself many times. All of these laws are apparent in the statement of the prophet about sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind. They who sow wind, shall reap wind, but they reap more than wind: they reap a whirlwind. What is called moderation in sin turns into a whirlwind. The law is manifest in every downward path to ruin. No man ever started out to become a drunkard. Every drunkard started in moderation, but wound up in reaping a whirlwind. No fallen woman ever started out deliberately to ~~lane~~ live in a life of shame, disease and disgrace. She started with indiscretion, but she wound up in a whirlwind.

No man ever started out to make money his god, and to be a slave to his business. He never expected that his quest for gold would carry him from his church and his God. But, alas! he sowed to the wind, and eventually he reaped a whirlwind. The whirlwind at last keeps him in a constant rush from early morning until late at night. His one thought, his one purpose, and his one ambition is business - the making of money. He is too busy for church, too busy for worship, too busy to read the Bible, too busy to pray. But one day the poor man, caught in the whirlwind, must take time to die.

No woman ever started out deliberately to make a worldly society her god. She started in moderation. She sowed only to the wind, but at last she is caught in society's mad whirl, without time for the church, without time for God, and often without time for her own home and her own children. A physician in the west told of a prominent society woman who had visited him a few years ago who had cancer. He diagnosed her case and told her that the cancer demanded immediate attention, with treatments that would take considerable time for several months, if her life was to be saved. The woman told the Dr. that her society calendar was so full that she could not think of taking the treatments for at least six weeks. The Dr. told her plainly that after six weeks it might be too late. She made her choice. She kept her engagements with society, and then came to the Dr.; but then it was too late. She died in a matter of weeks. She sowed to the wind but reaped the whirlwind.

II.

Hosea tells how the people rejected God's law: "I have written to him the things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing." This present generation has had much to say about the Word of God. The things of the Bible have been discounted and regarded as strange and unreasonable things; but it is a fact that every great revival of which we have record in the Bible, and in church history, is definitely connected with the establishment of God's law-God's book-in the hearts and lives of the people. Nothing is needed more than a revival of Bible reading; a turning to the book of books.

The closing statement of the prophet in the 8th chapter is, "For Israel hath forgotten his maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof." This is our sin. We have forgotten God. Oh, let us return to our Maker whom we have forgotten, in sincere repentance, prayer, faith, and obedience to his will.

The conditions which prevail in our nation today can but raise the question as to whether or not our nation will survive. The people to a colossal scale are sowing to the flesh. They are sowing to the desires of the carnal nature. The tidal wave of crime which is sweeping over our nation is developing faster than the states and cities can build prison houses to house the steady stream of criminals in our courts today. In one season criminals have been sent to institutions for the insane, due to crowded conditions in the penal institutions.

Vast numbers of the women of America have been the victims of alcohol and the cigarette. A breath laden with alcohol and nicotine, seldom fell from a mother's lips into the face of her children, 25 years ago. But the situation is vastly different today. The nicotine and alcohol-laden breath of a vast multitude of mothers falls into the helpless of their children. These mothers are already paving the way to nicotine enslavement and a drunkard's grave for thousands of little children.

The gambling mania is likewise keeping pace with the rising tide of intemperance and drunkenness. The gambling which went under some degree of restraining a generation ago is now practiced openly. This great evil has laid its blighting hands upon our young manhood, but upon our young womanhood and our youth. It is not uncommon today to find high school boys and girls who are alert to the vices and tricks of the card game as a gambling device which were known to the gamblers of a generation ago.

Conclusion :- We cannot escape the harvest of a generation that is sowing to the wind. We cannot escape reaping the whirlwind, if we pursue our present course. Our sailing will not always be favorable. We are headed for a rough sea with hurricanes of judgment unless we repent and turn to the Lord our God.