

# **Choices Matter: The Laws of Consequences**

## Lesson 7

Galatians 6:7-8; Proverbs 11:29, 18:12, 22:14, 29:23

May 3, 2020

## **We Reap More Than We Sow**

### **Introduction**

A farmer only needs a few handfuls of seeds to create an entire field of wheat. This field will not only feed his family and others in the coming season, but it will produce seeds for next year's crop. It is the same with the decisions that we make daily. When we make decisions out of fear and self-centeredness, we will see greater, negative consequences weeks, months, and even years down the road. By the same token, when we allow our decisions to be guided by the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will reap greater blessings and a greater relationship with Jesus and others.

The Bible and history are filled with examples of people who made decisions that resulted in more significant, eventual consequences. David responded to God's guidance and went on to build the united nation of Israel. On the other hand, a single transgression by one person (Adam) caused sin to enter the world. We need to think regularly, carefully, and prayerfully about not only the short-term effects of our actions but also about our motivations and the long-term ramifications these actions have on our lives and our relationships.

***Memory verse: "Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."—Galatians 6:8***

Pray and read Galatians 6:7-8, Proverbs 11:29, 18:12, 22:14, 29:23.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

## What do the passages say?

1. How serious are the consequences when we sow to please our flesh? (Galatians 6:7-8)
2. How excellent are the rewards when we sow to please the Holy Spirit? (Galatians 6:7-8)
3. What happens to those who bring ruin to their family? (Proverbs 11:29)
4. What does a haughty (proud, selfish) heart bring? (Proverbs 18:12)
5. What does humility bring? (Proverbs 18:12)
6. What is a deep pita and who falls into it? (Proverbs 22:14)
7. What is it that brings a person low? (Proverbs 29:23)
8. What are the things that bring a person honor? (Proverbs 29:23)

## What do the passages mean?

1. Trusting Jesus as Savior is a simple decision that happens in a moment, but when it happens, our daily motivations change. We will find ourselves with an intrinsic desire to please the Holy Spirit. What are other daily and eternal ramifications that come from that decision? (Galatians 6:8)
  
2. When we live without trusting Jesus daily, our motivations become selfish, and our lives become self-centered. What do our relationships and daily lives look like when this happens? (Galatians 6:8)
  
3. In Matthew 17, the disciples learned a practical lesson about trusting the Lord when they were unable to drive out a demon. A mustard seed is a tiny, round seed (about 1/16 of an inch in diameter), but Jesus says that a mustard seed of faith is all it takes to do significant work for the Kingdom. What does this say about the power that is unleashed when we sow a seed to trust Jesus? (Matthew 17:20)

4. Jesus told a parable of a farmer who sowed seed on several different surfaces. The seed that fell on good soil took root, grew, and flourished. The farmer then had a crop that yielded “a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” What kind of soil is the pride mentioned in the Proverbs you read? (Proverbs 18:12, 29:23; Matthew 13:3-23)

### **Applying the passages**

1. We don't always realize that the actions that we take now can produce significant consequences far down the road. What are some decisions that you made months or even years ago that continue to affect the lives of those around you today? What effect did these decisions have on your witness as a Christ-follower today?

2. Motivations are hugely important since they influence the decisions that we make. Think about the decisions that you've made recently. Write down 2-3 prideful decisions, and 2-3 decisions motivated by obeying the Spirit, that you made over the last week. What were the outcomes and impacts on your relationships from those decisions? (Galatians 6:8)
  
3. Words are powerful. Sowing kind words will build up and encourage those around us, but even just a few hurtful words can cause significant and immediate damage to our relationships. Read James 3, then think for a moment about the past week. Have there been words that you wish you could have taken back? Pray for a few moments and ask Jesus to guide your tongue for the coming week. (James 3:3-6)