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## Sowing and Reaping - Prosperity #2

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As we begin with this new teaching today, we find that Jesus spoke of the importance of money during His ministry and God wanting to bless His children, money has always been a part of His plan for them. There are many references in the bible for the giving and receiving of money, but He knew there would be challenges to overcome. We are a part of the kingdom of God and there are principles pertaining to that kingdom and as we learn little by little, we shall see the plan that God has for us as born again believers. We are in the kingdom of God, He is for us and not against us, regardless what the economy may be doing, it does not mean that His plan has changed for our lives. His plan is that we prosper, that all our needs are met and we have abundance, His economy is steady and the kingdom principles we cannot exhaust them.

Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." KJV

The entire 8th and 9th chapters of Corinthians deal with money, these chapters tell how to take up an offering and how to give in an offering, and in these chapters Paul encourages how to be liberal regarding finances. Paul told how the church in Jerusalem had made plans to take an offering and to send it to the church in Macedonia, and because of the size of the offering, it was being sent in the hands of men that were trustworthy.

2 Cor 8:9 "For ye know the \*grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be \*rich." KJV

\*grace is defined as Gods power ability working in us, enabling us to do what we can't do on our own, (taken from James 4 and 2 Corinthians 12

\* rich means to become wealthy, increase in goods and progressively become wealthier

The church world would not agree with this statement "that even though He was rich but He became poor". Jesus came to redeem us from sin, sickness and disease, He also came to redeem us from poverty.

In Deuteronomy chapter 28 we learn there are three things which are under the curse of the law, poverty or lack, sick and disease, sin or spiritual death. However, Galatians chapter 3 tells us that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law, in the price that Jesus paid in His death, burial and resurrection and His ascension, within that we were redeemed from sin. We may still have the effects of sin in our lives, but we are going to heaven, this world is not our home.

Gal 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" KJV

The bible teaches us that God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants, He is for the believers having wealth. God has gifted His people in order to have extreme blessings, but there are conditions in order for that to work. The following scriptures tell us what happens when a person is slack or lazy, there may be a desire but unless they apply themselves, it will not happen.

Pro 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." KJV

Pro 13:4 "The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat." KJV

There are kingdom principles regarding sowing and reaping or naming our seed in relationship to

finances. The following scripture deals with the law of sowing and reaping, the law is still operating in our everyday lives.

Gen 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." KJV

We look in the scriptures for the principle that seed time and harvest are still in effect. Mark 4, Matthew 13 and Luke 8 all give examples of this principle being true, some mention that there will be increase in the amount of 30,60 and 100, however, some will reap nothing. Solomon is an example of someone being very rich, requesting that God make him rich, but not too rich that he would forget God, but don't make him poor that he would have to beg for bread, he wanted to be someplace in the middle.

Deut 8:18 "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day." KJV

God made a covenant with the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt, in order for them to have prosperity. He gives us power to get wealth, but not all have the same abilities to reach that place, the law of sowing and reaping will determine the wealth that we achieve. Seed must be planted in order for there to be a harvest.

Isa 48:17-18 "Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. 18 O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:" KJV

Isa 48:17-18 "with this message: People of Israel, I am the holy Lord God, the one who rescues you. For your own good, I teach you, and I lead you along the right path. 18 How I wish that you had obeyed my commands! Your success and good fortune would then have overflowed like a flooding river." CEV

Isaiah teaches that the Lord wanted to teach the people to prosper, but there was a condition, they must obey his commandments and when they did success would overflow like a flooding river. We can have this same kind of success, but we must be obedient to Him. Jesus was not intimidated in regards to money, He would watch what was placed in the offerings and then correct them for giving such a small amount and draw attention to the one who had given out of her need.

Phil 4:15-17 "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." KJV

\*\*Phil 4:15-17 "And you Philippians yourselves well know that in the early days of the Gospel ministry, when I left Macedonia, no church (assembly) entered into partnership with me *and* opened up [a debit and credit] account in giving and receiving except you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent [me contributions] for my needs, not only once but a second time. 17 Not that I seek *or* am eager for [your] gift, but I do seek *and* am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit [the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account]." AMP

\*\*Phil 4:15-17 "My friends at Philippi, you remember what it was like when I started preaching the good news in Macedonia. After I left there, you were the only church that became my partner by giving blessings and by receiving them in return. 16 Even when I was in Thessalonica, you helped me more than once. 17 I am not trying to get something from you, but I want you to receive the blessings that come from giving." CEV

\*\*Phil 4:15-17 and ye have known, even ye Philippians, that in the beginning of the good news when I went forth from Macedonia, no assembly did communicate with me in regard to giving and receiving except ye only; 16 because also in Thessalonica, both once and again to my need ye sent; 17 not that I seek after the gift, but I seek after the fruit that is overflowing to your account;" YOUNG

Paul is teaching regarding the church giving and receiving, he was not wanting the finances, but wanted the people to be blessed in what they were doing.

Mal 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." KJV

God asking us to prove Him, that He will pour out a blessing on us, but we must be faithful in what He has instructed us to do. Bring all the tithe into the church. Some of us are good givers, but poor receivers. Do farmers plant seed and not expect a harvest? He could chose not to harvest, but he is waiting for the harvest.

Mark 10:23-27 "And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." KJV

Matthew, Mark and Luke all teach about the rich man. "All things with God are possible", is talking about money. The rich man was sad because he had great wealth but was trusting in that wealth not in God. Our trust must be in God in order to operate in the principles, we must first give, it is hard for the rich to give but with God it is possible. Jesus isn't teaching against riches, He is teaching against trusting in riches. Money is not the root of all evil, trusting in money is the problem. When we reach the point that all the bills are paid and we have enough, we have a tendency to get comfortable and forget about God and where our blessings are coming from. We should sow our seed on what we will be needing, not just in finances but in all areas of our lives.

Paul is teaching the people in Timothy to be generous in their giving, especially those who have money, to keep trusting God because money can be fleeting. Paul is wanting them to learn how to be good receivers also.

Phil 4:17-19 "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that \*may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." KJV

This scripture is a principle in the kingdom, when we give there is always a return, God is for us not against us. Giving is a fragrance in the nostrils of God and is well pleasing to Him.

\*\* other translations give more description regarding the fruit in their account, see the above

2 Cor 9:10 "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)" KJV

God will multiply the seed that is sown, and if we don't have seed, He will provide seed for the sower, but if you are not a sower, He won't provide seed for you. God is wanting to bless us so much that He will provide the seed to be sown and then multiply the seed.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." KJV

When we plant a seed can we name our harvest? Yes and no, in whatever we do, we need to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. There are many examples of different people receiving after they had

made things right with others. People needing healing had to make restitution. People desiring to have funds for paying off indebtedness gave of themselves to help others in need, their harvest came after sowing.

The following scriptures also tell us that we can receive if we are obedient to what we are told to do.

2 Kings 4:2-7 "And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest." KJV

The principle of sowing and reaping was working here. She was obedient and did what had been told for her to do, her reward was she received an abundance.

The lady in the last verses in 2 Kings 4, had supplied a room for the prophet and her desire was to have a child, the prophet told her that she would receive her son, however, as time went by the child grew and one day he died, the lady contacted the prophet and challenged him, saying that the son had died and the prophet needed to do something about it. The prophet laid upon him and he was raised from the dead. She had named her seed in the way of a desire and her harvest was the son she had. The principle of sowing and reaping was there.

Luke chapter 5 is Jesus teaching, He borrows Peters boat, asking about their catch the night before, there had been none, but Jesus told Peter to let down the nets, Peter was obedient naming his seed, a large catch of fish and he received an abundant amount of fish, almost sinking two boats.

You cannot out give God, it is more blessed to give than receive, when God gave Jesus, He had receiving on His mind, why had He been given? It was in order to have eternal life, unfortunately not everyone will receive Jesus. They are not good receivers in that area, the Father had receiving on His mind.