

March 14, 2023

Preparing – Sewing - Reaping

[John 4: 31-42](#)

³⁶ The reaper is already receiving^[a] wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Have you got them yet? No, I'm not meaning the newest gadgets or the newest fad. I'm talking about seed catalogs. If you've ever ordered anything from one of them, you'll get a slew of catalogs from all over the country. I like looking at them and marking things that I'd like before throwing them away.

All of us are called to be sowers. Whether we have vegetable gardens, flower beds and containers, or acres of crops harvested and stored for leaner times, it's good to look at all the result of our attention.

Just like sowing and harvesting in the earthly world, we are called to be sowers in the spiritual world. In our planting time, we must get the seeds, prepare the soil, plant, pray for rain to nourish them, keep the bugs and diseases away, and we can be pretty sure of a harvest. This is exactly like our spiritual planting. We must get the seeds. These spiritual seeds are found in God's *Living Word*. These seeds must be first planted in us before we can offer them to others.

We must prepare the soil of people's hearts to accept these seeds. This is done by developing a relationship of love and kindness. Individuals are led to Christ through the influence of others.

When the time is right, it's time to start planting the seeds. This will come if we continue to develop this relationship. We must see that this individual gets through to Christ and develops a personal saving relationship with the Redeemer.

Our work is not done. We must pray for good, warm weather, and rain to provide nourishment to get a harvest. This is why we must walk even closer to our new babe in the faith. We must be there to provide areas of growth and nourishment. We need to be close by sustaining and strengthening just as Jesus does for each of us.

When all of this happens, then a harvest is expected as this new babe becomes a sower also.

We must be prepared to share this gospel at any time and in any place. Jesus crossed all barriers to share the gospel, and we who follow Him must do no less.

Prayer: *Lord as we journey through this Lenten season may we become more aware of our job as sower, nourisher, and reaper of your harvest. Help us to not forget any aspect of the process, but rely on your guidance in the sewing and harvesting of souls for your kingdom. Amen.*

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