

March 31, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

James 3:18 *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.* (NIV)

James could not have chosen a better example, especially for me. I grew up on a farm and understand the principle of sowing and reaping. Paul also mentions this in **Gal. 6:7-9 *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 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. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*** (NIV)

James, the half-brother of Jesus, reminds us in his very pragmatic way, that if you sow in peace, you will reap a harvest. Now the farmer will understand that if he goes lightly on the seed that is put into the ground, the reciprocating harvest will also be light. My Grandpa would always set his planter settings on high, knowing that whatever he would sow, he would also reap. I found this to be true when I did my FFA project in high school. My assignment was to plant one acre of wheat and take care of it until the harvest. Well, having grown up around the sowing and reaping process, I made sure to make my planting settings rich and my fertilizer plentiful. As a result, and with the LORD'S blessing, my yield was higher than anyone else in the class. The moral of this illustration is that you reap what you sow and in the amount you sow. A peacemaker is one who carries the truth of the One Who is peace to all who need to hear it. If we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly.

Now James makes an interesting statement here; peacemakers who sow in peace. This is the picture of the loving sower who cares meticulously for the seeds he is planting. **Ps. 126:6 *Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.*** (NIV) Are you sowing peace generously? Are you sharing the gospel plentifully? Don't hold on to the most important treasure, your salvation. Instead sow the seeds of peace and forgiveness bountifully. Don't hold back. **Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*** (NIV)

Dear LORD, help us to not hold back the greatest message of all time. There is peace in the cross of the Savior. He has loosened us from the grasp of sin. He has paid the ultimate price. Let us go out with weeping, carrying seed to sow. In Jesus Name, Amen