

How to Reap a Whirlwind

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Andrew Paulsen: Tuna trip. Singles. Children Ministry. Marriage Retreat. Sun Night of Prayer. Pray for *Back to School*. Invite up Lorraine.
- B. Divorce Care: Lorraine DeLeon sharing.

II. Slide7 Intro: How to Reap a Whirlwind

- A. Chapter 8 contains *a collection of poetic sayings* reiterating how the Israelites have strayed from God in their choice of *rulers, their religious practices, and their foreign policy*.

III. Slide8 CHAPTER 8

- A. **AN EXECUTING EAGLE** (1-6) *Listening to God*
- B. **Eagle** or vulture in Hebrew - *any large bird of prey*.
- C. Slide9 Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, told a story about a **goose** who was wounded and who landed in a barnyard with some **chickens**. He played with the chickens and ate with the chickens. After a while that **goose thought he was a chicken**. One day a flight of geese came over, migrating to their home. They gave a **honk** up there in the sky, and he heard it. Kierkegaard said, "*Something stirred within the breast of this goose. Something called him to the skies. He began to flap the wings he hadn't used, and he rose a few feet into the air. Then he stopped, and he settled back again into the mud of the barnyard. He heard the cry, but he settled for less.*"
 1. Israel settled for *so far less* than what God had planned for them & for what He made them for. *Have you settled for less? I have. I've heard His cry often... and ended up settling for good, ok or even mediocre, instead of going for His best.*
- D. (1) The *shofar* was sounded to *sound an alarm* or *gather the people*.
 1. When God sounds the trumpet we better *wake up & listen*.
 2. Slide10 Instead of God *bearing them on eagles' wings and bringing them to Himself* (Ex.19:4) The **Assyrian Eagle** was about to swoop down on them as his prey.

a) Deut.28 is about Israel's obedience (1-14) & if there's disobedience (15-68).

b) Vs.49 says *The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand.*

E. **My God, We know you!** - The Israelites are shocked that God is not responding to their cry, *even though* they are simply going through the motions of legalistic ritual.

1. Their **outward ritualism** conceals an **inward rebellion**.

F. **Slide11 A DIRT DEVIL** (7) *sow wind-seeds, reap tornadoes*

G. (7) **Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind** - What seems to be *a lovely wind today* can become an *ugly storm tomorrow*. (ask pastor Rick about the 1 that ran through his backyard Thurs in Wildomar)

H. **Slide12a We Reap What We Sow.**

1. **A basic law of physics** states that *for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction*.

2. **We get out of life what we put into it.** (This does not mean that we directly cause every event in our lives; we do not)

3. If you cheat in **practice**, you'll cheat in the **game**.

If you cheat in your **head**, you'll cheat on the **test**.

If you cheat on your **girl/boyfriends**, you'll probably cheat on your **spouse**.

If you cheat in **business**, you'll probably cheat in **life**.

a) Can you think of a time where you *sowed wild oats, and reaped a tornado of your own?*

4. Life is a series of **investments** and **returns**.

a) Give money – receive blessings. Invest money – accumulate savings.

Borrow money – incur debt. Venture nothing – gain nothing.

Live honorably – receive honor. Study diligently – achieve an education.

Train for athletic competition – win prize.

Show kindness – Kindness is often show in return.

b) Sow a **thought**, reap an **act**. Sow an **act**, reap a **habit**.

Sow a **habit**, reap a **character**. Sow a **character**, reap a **destiny**.

I. **Slide12b We Reap the Same Kind That We Sow.**

- J. Jesus points this out: *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.* Mt.7:16-17
1. The point is simple, but it must be clearly stated: *We cannot plant corn and get a harvest of wheat; we cannot plant tomatoes & a harvest of cucumbers.*
 - a) Neither can we plant seeds of criticism, strife and anger and get a healthy marriage. We cannot plant seeds of stinginess, self-indulgence, and greed and reap a harvest of financial blessing. We cannot plant seeds of poor decisions and reap a harvest of God's will in our lives. *We reap the same kind that we sow.*
 2. There are 2 types of harvest:
 - a) **The flesh.** Or the sin nature; the nature of man w/o the Spirit of God.
 - (1) Job 4:8 says, *As I have observed those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.*
 - (2) Proverbs 22:8 says, *Those who plant injustice will harvest disaster.*
 - b) **The Spirit.** Sow to the desires and dictates of the Holy Spirit in your life. The results? *The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* How do we do that? By **filling** our minds and hearts with the Word, prayer, fellowship, obeying God when He speaks, and by **guarding** our hearts and minds from influences of the world.
- K. Slide12c We Reap in Proportion to What We Sow.
- L. If you've ever planted any kind of fruit or vegetable, you understand this truth. Here are 2 areas of life that illustrates the concept:
1. **Relationships.** Notice the impact of a kind word or a compliment versus a harsh word or criticism. The friendlier we are, the friendlier the world becomes. Jesus said, *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*
 2. **Giving.** God stresses that we should sow **generously**. (2Cor.9:6).
- M. Slide12d We Reap in a Different Season Than We Sow.
- N. Paul reminds us that we reap *at just the right time* (Gal.6:9). This contains both a promise & an expectation.
1. **Promise.** Parenting is an excellent illustration. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us that *if we train our children right, when they are old, they will not depart from it.*

a) It has been said that raising children is as easy as ***nauling a poached egg to a tree.***

b) Parenting involves making a ***long-term investment*** in our children.

c) Many times we get frustrated as parents because we do not see the ***immediate payoff of our investment*** in our children. They will learn their life lessons ***just like we learned them...*** over time, with many mistakes, not listening to counsel, and through many ***dangers, toils and snares.***

2. **Expectation.** We must learn to **wait** on God's proper season for our lives. **God's timing is perfect.** It's not always according to our schedule or desire. But the promise is sure – ***we will reap in due time.***

O. **Slide12e We Reap if We Persevere**

1. Gal.6:9 ***So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.***

P. **Slide13 A VALUELESS VESSEL (8) *a crack in your Tupperware***

Q. (8) ***Like a vessel in which is no pleasure –***

1. Israel became a piece of ***junk pottery*** on the trash heap.

2. ***We all bring certain treasures into our marriages. What did you bring?***

I brought my coveted **Plaster Seagulls from Mexico** (from bach party, ***surfin in Mexico***)

a) I displayed them proudly on our **fireplace**. But one day somehow they moved to the **side yard**. Only one day to find them next to the **trash can**.

b) I delighted in them...Kelly never did [much like my ***blacklight crushed velvet*** dogs playing pool]

3. ***So with Israel.*** They had become ***a worthless vessel...***like my seagulls.

R. **Slide14 A DUMB DONKEY (9,10) *vulnerable alone*** [word play w/ephraim, ***wild donkey/pere***]

S. Israel was like a dumb animal that had lost its way in the wilderness. Vulnerable.

1. Israel was forsaken by God & forsaken by her allies, **& thus** abandoned to face a future alone.

T. **Slide15 AN ANEMIC ALTAR (11-14) *many sin altars***

U. (11) **Israel**/Ephraim multiplied **altars**; **Judah** multiplied **fortifications** (14).

1. **Altars of sinning**. What if God said (as Paul did at the Areopagus) *I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship*.

What altars would He find erected there?

2. What altars would He find erected in your life? Your **social media** altar? Your **amount of Likes** altar? Your **pride** altar? Your **business** altar? Your **sports** altar? Your **hobby** altar? Your **selfi** altar?

V. (13) **Egypt** – Hosea talks about 13 times.

1. It speaks of **Egypt Past** (the Exodus). **Egypt Present** (Israel's unholy alliance with). **Egypt Future** (as a symbol of their impending bondage to *Assyria*).

2. **They shall return to Egypt** (lit or fig?) 11:5 makes it clear this is *figurative*.

a) Assyria becomes *The New Egypt* if you will.

b) What was your bondage **before** salvation? What is it **now**? Did you *substitute it* simply for something else?

IV. Slide16 **CHAPTER 9**

A. **A HABITUAL HARLOT** (1-9) *love for hire*

B. Israel's produce is again portrayed as a prostitute's wages.

C. You made *love for hire* on every threshing floor - Wiersbe said, *During the harvest season, prostitutes frequented the threshing floors, where the men slept to guard the grain*.

1. Maybe that's why Boaz was so shocked to find a woman at his feet when he was at the threshing floor(aka Ruth) *Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. And he said, Who are you? So she answered, I am Ruth, your maidservant*.

D. Slide17 **WINE IN THE WILDERNESS** (10-17) *grapes & 1st figs*

E. (10) How did God feel about Israel?

1. You **don't** find **grapes in the desert**...**but** if you did, *they would sure be enjoyable*. The **first figs** tasted especially good, **as did Israel** to their Lord.

2. *But now* He likened them to: that 1 bad seed in a bag of sunflower seeds.
Or, a brown spot on a banana. Or, the gooey stuff on a sunny side up egg.

F. Slide18 (14) Hosea breaks into a prayer for them.

1. **But then** he **pauses** (see dash) for he doesn't know what God should give them.
2. Then he asks, *What will You give them?*
3. Then the only thing he thinks of is *childlessness* so the miseries of the day would be as limited as possible.
 - a) **The fruitful womb** was always a blessing, **but now the miscarrying womb** would be a blessing :(
4. What did Jesus say on the Via Dolorosa while Simon was carrying His cross?
 - a) Let's read Jesus' commentary on this verse Lk.23:26-31 (vs.29 = Hos.9:14) (vs.30 = Hos.10:8)

G. Communion:

1. Bread -
2. Cup -