

January 27/28, 2006

**Study Questions**  
*Stewardship Series*  
**We Reap What We Sow**  
**Numbers 13-14**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

**Opening Discussion**

1. Is it possible to trust God with certain areas of our lives without trusting God with our money? Why or why not?
2. Does grace mean that God will always be there to bail us out regardless of our attitudes or behaviors?
3. Is money an accurate barometer of whether we are trusting ourselves as god or trusting God as God? Is there a better barometer?

**Bible Study**

1. Read Matthew 6:19-34. What is the relationship between money and heart?

Can God have your heart if He doesn't have your money according to Jesus?

2. According to Jesus, what is the relationship between our daily needs and which master we serve?

Why is worry about daily provision an issue of faith? (v. 30)

Is Jesus saying that when we serve money (ourselves) as master we will be anxious about life because deep down we know we're not adequate for the job? What's the solution?

In what way is "laying up treasures in heaven" an issue of faith which ultimately determines who we trust, God or ourselves?

3. Read II Corinthians 9:6-10. Is there a correlation between what we sow and what we reap?

What does this mean?

Compare this to what we studied in Malachi 3:8-12 two weeks ago. Is it possible to "rob God" of the offering He is due and still experience a meaningful Christian life?

4. Read Numbers 13-14. God has always required His people to live by faith. God promised to give Israel the Promised Land but they would have to take it by faith. Did the people choose to trust God or themselves for the land?

How did God respond to their unwillingness to trust Him?

5. When we choose not to trust God with our money, we are saying to God He can't be trusted for our daily provision. We are saying we would rather trust ourselves than God. I Corinthians 10:1-11 tells us that stories such as this one in the Old Testament are written for our example that we might not make the same mistakes Israel made. Does it matter to God if we choose to trust Him or not?

How might this correlate to sowing and reaping?

Can we expect that God will bail us out in our time of crisis if we've clearly determined by our behavior that we trust ourselves more than we trust Him?

Was the nation of Israel allowed to enter the Promised Land after they learned of the consequences of their lack of faith?

## **Application**

1. We may tend to think that giving God our money is not really that big of a deal. However, what it reflects is a lack of trust in God. According to Jesus we can't have it both ways. Either we trust God or we don't, and money is a tangible means to measure whom we trust. If you are currently not giving financially to God, you are telling God He can't be trusted. Are you sure that's the message you want to communicate to God?
2. Part of the concept of sowing and reaping is recognizing there are consequences to our choices. If God will supply when we sow bountifully, isn't it fair to say He will supply sparingly when we sow sparingly?

Is that really the arrangement you want with God in your hour of need?

3. If you are sowing bountifully to God, don't you have every reason to believe God will deal bountifully with you and care for you through the challenges and trials of life? Giving generously to God is the pathway to peace and confidence to face life's challenges.