

COME UNTO ME

by

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CHAPTER EIGHT

GOD'S PAY DAY

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:7-8).

It is amazing that reasonable beings should deceive themselves in matters that concern their everlasting interest.

It is infinitely more astonishing that in this so-called scientific, philosophical, psychological, oh, how psychological, age, men should delude themselves so far as to fancy they can impose upon God Himself, or mock Him and escape with impunity. Yet, that they continue to do so is plainly implied in our text.

People may be said to mock God when they take advantage of secrecy to commit any sin, without fear. Many who are kept within the bounds of decency, by the restraint of exposure, of fear, of shame, of public censure, in reference to their fellow humans give an unbridled looseness to their criminal desires and actions when either darkness or secrecy favor them, without any fear of God.

Some cover their wicked purposes, their iniquitous pursuits with specious pretences to religion and sanctity. Oh, the sins of church members! Of so-called Christians! There is nothing in all the world lower, more abominable, more despicable, more dishonoring to God and to man than a religious hypocrite! They perform the duties! They go through the routine rounds of religion as a sham! Their hearts are not engaged in the matter! Yet we all assuredly know that all of our services rendered in the Lord's name, in the Lord's work, in the Lord's church, are judged according to the frame, the disposition, the attitude of the soul.

There are others who are constantly confessing their sins with sorrow, solemnly vowing reformation, yet constantly returning again to folly, like a dog to its vomit, like a hog to its wallow. Multitudes of these go a step farther in partial reformation, forsaking some sins and retaining others. There is no such thing as a little sin in the sight of God. The Lord demands perfection. One single, unconfessed, unforgiven sin is sufficient to keep you out of heaven, to plunge you into hell. The people who crucified Jesus were considered moral, righteous men.

There are still others mocking God by delaying, by neglecting the offer of God's mercies. They do not intend to be eternally lost! They do not intend to be so fearfully sinful as to reject Christ and die in their sins. It is their full intention, oftentimes even expressed in loud pronouncements, to do something about religion, to take care of the welfare of their souls, some day. When they hear the threatenings of God pronounced against their wickedness, they flatter themselves that they shall attend to it all someday, and in the end have peace. When the burning accusations of the Holy Spirit get too hot for them, they stop coming to the revival, they stop going to church, until the world and Satan will have had time to calm their fears, to cool down their feelings. Press them too hard and they get fiercely angry with you, threatening never to come back to the services unless they are left strictly alone. All of us, who have ever striven to do personal witness bearing, have felt more than once that we ought to take these gripers up, and just let them alone, to go to hell their own secret way.

God cannot be mocked. None can mock Him and escape with impunity. This must be admitted, at least in theory, by everyone who believes in the existence of God.

God cannot be mocked or imposed upon because He is omniscient. He knows all about us. There is no hiding from Him, no, not even the most secret part of our lives. God cannot be imposed upon because He is omnipotent. There is no running away from Him. There is no putting any pressure upon Him. There is no escaping the long arm of His arresting judgment. There is no fleeing from His presence. There is no disguising ourselves, no losing ourselves in the milling multitudes.

Mocking God is a crime that carries with it a practical denial of His sovereignty. It seeks to dethrone and dishonor God. It is true, gloriously true, that the Lord delights in mercy, that He has given to every penitent sinner every encouragement and inducement to turn to Him; yet He is also a God of justice, and must, and will be, faithful to His threatenings as well as His promises. We must all know that God is able to inflict punishment upon those who have continuously mocked Him either by sin, by unbelief, or by hypocritical pretence.

The Bible is filled with illustrations of these terrifying truths.

Think of Jacob the supplanter, paying again, and again, and yet again, for the deceit he had practiced upon Esau. The wilderness of his nature ran in the blood of his children. Think of the frightening night he spent at Peniel on the eve of his meeting with his brother Esau, whom he had so definitely defrauded. Think of the heartbreak he experienced when the prince of Shechem forced his daughter Dinah, only to pay for it in the fearful revenge of Jacob's two blood-thirsty sons, Simeon and Levi. Think of the anguish in the old man's heart when his favorite son Joseph was seemingly lost to him forever.

David is another stunning example. He sinned with Bathsheba. He caused Uriah to be slain. How bitterly, how tragically, he did pay for that twofold sin! His son by Bathsheba died. Amon, another son committed incest with Tamar, Amon's half-sister, only to die at the hands of Absalom.

Absalom, the handsome, the attractive, the beloved, raised the standard of rebellion against his own father; only to die that terrible death, pierced through by javelins as he hung from a limb by his glorious hair.

Then, when David was already on his death-bed, when it was understood that Solomon was to be his successor, another son, Adonijah, started a revolution that almost succeeded in defeating David's plan. Truly the way of the transgressor is hard. Truly the wages of sin is inevitable, unavoidable, inescapable death.

It is the same way to this day. Sin is still sin. Satan is still Satan. God is still Sovereign. He will not see His throne rights flouted. He will not allow any man to get away with rebellion. The scientists, the artists, the psychologists, the literati, the movie-makers have taken this theme up, proposing it as their novel discovery, when the Bible has been teaching it for ages. Our God is a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers unto the children, yea, unto the third and fourth generation. **"All souls are mine, as the soul of the Father so the soul of the son, and the soul that sinneth it shall die."**

We all sow what we may expect to reap. We are always sowing, constantly sowing, ceaselessly sowing.

- We are sowing physically, in the care or the abuse of our bodies.
- We are sowing mentally in the training or neglect of our minds, in the filling of them with the things that are worthwhile or with fancies, fantasies, figures that will rise up to damn us, to destroy us.
- We are sowing morally in the thoughts that we think, in the places that we go, in the literature that we read, in the amusements that we follow.
- We are most of all sowing spiritually, sowing in prayer or lack of it, sowing in the Bible study or lack of it, sowing in attendance upon the services of the house of the Lord or in our neglecting of them, sowing in our obedience or disobedience to the guiding impulses of the Holy Spirit.
- We sow by thinking, by failing to think.
- We sow by being, by failing to be.
- We sow by doing, by failing to do.

We all reap just what we sow.

Who was it who said,

"Sow a thought, reap an act;
sow an act, reap a deed;
sow a deed, reap a habit;
sow a habit, reap a character;
sow a character, reap a life."

It is true in every realm of human endeavor. Sow wheat, reap wheat. Sow roses, reap roses. Sow cotton, reap cotton. Sow tares, reap tares, and troubles, and tears, besides.

We are so very careful to provide for the exigencies of sickness, of accident, of death. We buy all sorts of insurance, seeing to it that neither we nor those dependent upon us should want for anything. It is infinitely more important to prepare to live, to prepare for health.

- We reap what we sow in our own lives.
- We reap what we sow in our homes, in love or in hate, in harmony or in discord.
- We reap what we sow in our education.

There is many a man, a woman, listening to me, who wishes he now had the opportunity he once had at schooling, finding himself limited for life by the neglect of earlier years. Oh, I could go on forever, but there is no need of it. You are intelligent people. Your own minds will supply the rest.

- We reap what we sow in our businesses.
- We reap what we sow in our children. Oh, the tragedy of that!
- We reap what we sow in our friends.

We reap more than we sow. We reap longer than we sow. That is the invariable, universal law of every harvest. Sow handful, reap bushelsful. Sow bushels, reap granaries. It is infinitely more true in the spiritual realm. The sins we commit will be paid for with terrible interest, with frightful usury, by ourselves, by all whom we touch. Drunkards, lustful persons, venial sinners will patently plant seeds that will be paid for by their loved ones, by their associates, by their husbands, wives, children, friends, in too many cases, by all society.

We reap throughout an endless eternity, either with God in heaven, or with the devil in hell. The choice is ours. Life has given us two sets of seed with which to sow. The choice of the seed is left entirely up to us. The Lord has definitely told us what the harvest will be. He has patiently described to us the sowing, the growing, the reaping, the harvesting.

There is but one thing for us to do, heed the admonition of God. Sow to the Spirit so that you may reap a mighty, blessed, spiritual harvest, here and hereafter. Sow to the Spirit so that those about you, who will share in your harvest, may rise up and call you blessed because of the fruitage of your holy life.

You say, "What must I do to sow in the Spirit?"

Listen. Let Christ have the right of way in your life—now, this moment. Come under the blessed blood. Open your heart's door. Let the Holy Spirit come in and take control. He will if you ask Him to do so. He will direct the harvest, aye, and supply the seed, and do most of the work, too.

~ end of chapter 8 ~

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