

The Prize

Part One: *Why Not Me?!*

September 25, 2022

Do you ever look at people who have achieved something great and wonder, “*How do I achieve that kind of success?*” The gap between us and them might tempt us to make an excuse, and the excuse goes something like this, “*That person is just **lucky.***” *Those excuses are misguided and I’m going to prove it to you.*

- Successful people do **consistently** what others do **occasionally**. // If you keep **doing** what you’ve been **doing**, you’re going to keep **getting** what you’ve been **getting**.

The life you want with Jesus is never the result of a *few lucky decisions*. It is always the result of countless seemingly *small decisions over time*.

- It’s the **small things** that nobody sees that lead to the **big results** everyone wants. Galatians 6:7-9

As a general rule...

- 1) You **reap** what you **sow**. Hosea 10:13a

If you plant corn, you won’t get carrots—you’ll get corn. Generally, if you plant godly **habits** you will reap godly **outcomes**. The opposite is also true. Paul is not promoting some law of spiritual karma in Galatians 6 that ensures we will get good when we do good, or always get bad when we do bad. If there were such an absolute spiritual law, it would surely condemn us all. Instead, Paul simply relates the principle of sowing and reaping to the way we manage our time, talent and treasure before the Lord.

- If you don’t like what you’re **reaping**, change what you’re **sowing**.

You don’t just reap what you sow...

- 2) You reap **more than** you sow. Mark 4:20

You cannot out-sow God; He can return more than you sow! Harvest returns don't have to be a one-to-one ratio.

You don’t just reap what you sow and reap more than you sow...

- 3) You reap **after** you sow. Galatians 6:9-11

There is a delay in receiving a harvest of righteousness. Don’t get discouraged if you don’t see progress fast enough. We’ve got to keep waiting and be faithful! We don’t judge the success of the day by the **harvest we reap**, but by the **seeds we sow**.

In every action you take, you are choosing a direction. Stay on course! Your hard work will pay off. Your sacrifices will be worth it. Your faithfulness will not be wasted. Every happy marriage, joyful giver or godly Christian is the result of behind the scenes work. Keep praying. Keep giving. Keep serving. Keep believing.