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"Always Walk Through Life As If You Have Something New To Learn, And You Will.

~ Vernon Howard

## CHAPTER 4 - A MAN EXPECTS TO REAP THE SAME KIND AS HE SOWS

...“Let the earth burst forth with every sort of grass and seed-bearing plant, and fruit trees with seeds inside the fruit, so that these seeds will produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from.” And so it was, and God was pleased." [Genesis 1:12 \(Living Bible\)](#)

“Beware of false teachers who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are wolves and will tear you apart. You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You need never confuse grapevines with thorn bushes or figs with thistles. Different kinds of fruit trees can quickly be identified by examining their fruit." [Matthew 7:15-17 \(Living Bible\)](#)

If I should tell you that I sowed ten acres of wheat last year and that watermelons came up, or that I sowed cucumbers and gathered turnips, you wouldn't believe it. **It is a fixed law that you reap the same kind of seed you sow.** Plant wheat and you reap wheat, plant an acorn and there comes up an oak, plant a little elm and in time you have a big elm.

Like produces like in vegetation, and like produces like in labor. If a man has learned the trade of a carpenter, he does not expect to excel as a watchmaker. If he has toiled hard to acquire a knowledge of the law, he does not expect to practice medicine for a livelihood. Men expect to reap in the same line as they have learned.

**This law is just as true in God's kingdom as in man's kingdom; just as true in the spiritual world as in the natural world.** If I sow tares, I am going to reap tares; if I sow a lie, I am going to reap lies; if I sow adultery. I am going to reap adulterers; if I sow hard liquor, I am going to reap drunkards. **You cannot blot this law out, it is in force. No other truth in the Bible is more solemn.**

Suppose that a neighbor, whom I don't want to see, comes to my house and I tell my son to tell him, if he asks for me, that I am out of town. He goes to the door and lies to my neighbor; it will not be six months before that boy will lie to me; I will reap that lie. It is not poetry, but solemn prose that a man must reap the same kind of seed that he sows.

Many a time people say, “You think [Jacob](#) was a saint, don't you? He was a big rascal.” Many have said they thought Jacob wasn't as good as [Esau](#). Notice this fact.

You read in the Bible, "But the Lord is bringing a lawsuit against Judah. Jacob will be justly punished for his ways. When he was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God." [Hosea 12:1-3 \(Living Bible\)](#)

This law of retribution runs through his Life; although he was a friend of God, a kinsman of [Abraham](#), and was third in the line of the covenant, yet God made Jacob reap the same kind of seed he sowed. Some one has said that "Jacob's misfortunes were uniformly calculated to bring back to his recollection the picture as well as the punishment of his faults."

When [Isaac](#) in his old age wanted some venison, and sent [Esau](#) out to get it, Jacob slipped out and took a kid from his father's flock, and [Rebekah](#), his mother, cooked it; he brought it to his old blind father and said he was Esau. The old man recognized his voice, but he had very cunningly put the skin of the kid on his hands and neck; so that the old man felt him and said;

"The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." - [Genesis 27:22 \(Living Bible\)](#)

By this lie he got his brother's birthright blessing, but he paid ten thousand times more for it than it was worth. "Who steals my purse steals trash." [William Shakespeare](#) A man who steals my pocketbook is the chief sufferer, not I. When Jacob had grown to be an old man, he lived in continual suspicion that his sons were deceiving him. The sin of deceiving his own father bore fruit.

Jacob was the great loser in this transaction. When Esau returned he had to flee for his life. Then God met him at [Bethel](#). "At the top of the stairs stood the Lord. "I am Jehovah," he said, "the God of Abraham, and of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on is yours! I will give it to you and to your descendants. For you will have descendants as many as dust! They will cover the land from east to west and from north to south; and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. What's more, I am with you, and will protect you wherever you go, and will bring you back safely to this land; I will be with you constantly until I have finished giving you all I am promising." [Genesis 28:13-15 \(Living Bible\)](#)

Men will read that far in the life of Jacob and say, "I don't want anything more to do with a God who will deal in grace with a man who had done so mean a thing." My friend, hold on. Follow him to [Paddan Aram](#). He was there twenty years, and during that time his wages were changed ten times. He worked seven years for the lovely [Rachel](#), and then had another woman put upon him.

Jacob had by deception obtained the blessing of the first-born son, but **Laban** sarcastically reminded him, "It's not our custom to marry off a younger daughter ahead of her sister," Laban replied smoothly." **Genesis 29:26 (Living Bible)** He found that Laban could drive as sharp a bargain as he.

Wherever you find a sharp, shrewd man, you will always find that he draws just such men around him, and that he who cheats will himself be cheated. "Birds of a feather flock together"; blasphemers get together, and sharp, shrewd men get together. Jacob found in Laban just such a man as himself. **It was "diamond cut diamond."**

Look a little further. Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved **Joseph** and **Benjamin** more than the others because they were the sons of his beloved Rachel. He was partial to Joseph, and had a coat made of many colors for him. Partiality will raise the old Adam in any family.

One morning Joseph, in the innocence of his heart, tells a dream in which his father and all his brothers had bowed down to him. Then his brothers began to plan to get him out of the way, and when his father sent him to find them when they were tending the flocks, they said:

"Here comes that master-dreamer," they exclaimed. "Come on, let's kill him and toss him into a well and tell Father that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what will become of all his dreams!" **Genesis 37:20 (Living Bible)**

Later they sold him, Then the brothers killed a goat and spattered its blood on Joseph's coat, and took the coat to their father and asked him to identify it. "We found this in the field," they told him. "Is it Joseph's coat or not?" Their father recognized it at once. "Yes," he sobbed, "it is my son's coat. A wild animal has eaten him. Joseph is without doubt torn in pieces." Then Israel tore his garments and put on sackcloth and mourned for his son in deepest mourning for many weeks." **Genesis 37:31-34 (Living Bible)**

**Now notice: Jacob deceived his father with the skin of a kid, and his sons deceived him with the blood of a kid. Jacob lied to his father, and his sons lied to him.** The lie came home. Every lie is bound to come back to you. You cannot dig a grave so deep but that it will have a resurrection. Tramp, tramp, your sins will all come back.

"But if you don't do as you have said, then you will have sinned against the Lord, and you may be sure that your sin will catch up with you." [Numbers 32:23 \(Living Bible\)](#)

You may think you are very shrewd and far-sighted, and can plan and cover up, but it is the decree of high heaven that no sin shall be covered; God will uncover it. You cannot deceive the Almighty. Jacob found that out. He had to reap what he sowed.

Again, look at David; Don't you think David fell as low as Saul?"

Yes, he fell lower, because God had lifted him higher. The difference is that when Saul fell there was no sign of repentance, but when David fell, a wail went up from his broken heart; there was true repentance. No man in all the Scripture record rose so high and fell so low as David. God took him from the sheepfold and placed him on the throne. He gave him riches and lands in abundance. He was on a pinnacle of glory, and was loved and honored among men.

But one day, you remember, David was walking upon the roof of the king's house, and he saw [Bathsheba](#), and lusted after her, and committed the awful sin of adultery; and then, to cover up that sin, he made Bathsheba's husband drunk, and had him murdered. The decree came: Why, then, have you despised the laws of God and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered [Uriah The Hittite](#) and stolen his wife. Therefore murder shall be a constant threat in your family from this time on because you have insulted me by taking Uriah's wife. [2 Samuel 12:9-10 \(Living Bible\)](#)

[Amnon](#), David's son, commits adultery with David's own daughter. [Absalom](#) makes a feast for Amnon and has him murdered. Not long after he comes with an army to drive David, his father, from the throne, and publicly commits adultery with David's concubines on the roof of the king's house; if God had not been overruling, he would have killed his father.

David sowed adultery and reaped it in his own family. He sowed murder and reaped it in his own family. I believe that what brought the bitter wail from that father's heart when he said, "Then the king broke into tears, and went up to his room over the gate, crying as he went. "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom. If only I could have died for you! O Absalom, my son, my son." [2 Samuel 18:33 \(Living Bible\)](#)

The fact that these were the wages of his own sin. From the time he fell into that sin with Uriah's wife until he went down to his grave, it was one wave after another rolling over him.

If God did not spare David, do you think He will spare us if we fall into sin and do not confess and turn from our sins? If ever a man had an opportunity to cover his sins, David had. No judge or jury dared to pronounce judgment against him. The thing was done in the dark, but his sin found him out.

**Nathan** / **Nathan** \* was sent across his path, and, Nathan will appear to you some day. Some messenger will smite you in the way if you do not repent and turn from your sins. Call on God now as David did when he came to himself? make the same prayer—how thankful we should be that we have the prayer! why not make it on your knees now?

### **David's Prayer For Forgiveness.**

Written after Nathan the prophet had come to inform David of God's judgment against him because of his adultery with Bathsheba, and his murder of Uriah, her husband. **Psalm 51 (Living Bible)**

### **Examples From History.**

But you say you don't believe in the Bible. Then look at history, and see if this law is not true. **Maxentius** built a false bridge to drown **Constantine The Great**, but was drowned himself. **Bajazet** was carried about by **Tamerlane** in an iron cage which he intended for Tamerlane. Maximinus put out the eyes of thousands of Christians; soon after a fearful disease of the eyes broke out among his people, of which he himself died in great agony. **Valens** caused about eighty Christians to be sent to sea in a ship and burnt alive: he was defeated by the **Goths** and fled to a cottage, where he was burnt alive.

**Pope Alexander VI** was poisoned by wine he had prepared for another. **Henry III of France** was stabbed in the same chamber where he had helped to contrive the cruel massacre of French Protestants. **Marie Antoinette**, riding to **Notre Dame Cathedral** for her bridal, bade the soldiers command all beggars, cripples, and ragged people to leave the line of the procession. She could not endure the sight of these miserable ones. Soon after, bound in the executioner's cart, she was riding toward the place of execution amid crowds who gazed on her with hearts as cold as ice and hard as granite. When **Foulon** was asked how the starving populace was to live, he said: "Let them eat grass." Afterward, the mob, maddened with rage, caught him in the streets of Paris, hung him, stuck his head upon a pike and filled his mouth with grass.

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"We reap what we sow. We are the makers of our own fate. None else has the blame, none has the praise."

~ Swami Vivekananda