



HOME GROUP STUDY

27th September 2026

SOWING AND REAPING A HARVEST

Galatians 6.7-8 and 1 Samuel 24.1-20

1 Samuel 24: 1-20

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, “Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.” 2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. 3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 And the men of David said to him, “Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, ‘Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.’” Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5 And afterwards David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6 He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.” 7 So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

8 Afterwards David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. 9 And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your harm’? 10 Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, ‘I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.’ 11 See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. 12 May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. 13 As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes wickedness.’ But my hand shall not be against you. 14 After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! 15 May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.”

16 As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 He said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. 18 And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. 19 For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. 20 And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

1. **Read Genesis 8.22. God's promise that harvests will not fail would appear at odds with the reality of harvests failing around the world today.
To what can we attribute this apparent unfulfilled promise?**
2. **The Jewish festival of Sukkot or shelters or tabernacles has been celebrated by Jews since the early requirement to observe it for a week – see Leviticus 23.42-43. It celebrates God's provision in harvest, in food. water and also in all aspects of life. It especially recalls his provision for his people as they travelled for years after their exodus from slavery in Egypt. Today Jews build flimsy temporary shelters at home to echo the flimsy shelters they put up on their exodus journey.**
3. **See John 7 for mention of Jesus going to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate Sukkot. They considered it important enough to go specially to Jerusalem from Galilee. Why has the celebration of Harvest become less significant today for Christians? Is it just that we are a less agrarian society? Or have we become more self-sufficient and acknowledging less our dependence on God.
Is this mainly a western phenomenon.**
4. **In the New Testament harvest is a metaphor for the Christian life.
Read Galatians 6.7-8 on sowing and reaping in life. These verses speak strongly of the moral and spiritual consequences of our choices and actions. What examples come to mind of such consequences? Sometimes things befall us that are not of our own making – ill health, accidents, the effects of war etc....It would appear that sometimes we reap what we have not sown.
In what sense can these verses be true spiritually?**
5. **Consider Jesus' parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. What are the main teaching points Jesus is making? Can we tell if our lives are being receptive to the 'good seed'?
What actions or attitudes do we need to cultivate as Christians to encourage God's seeds to flourish in our lives and the lives of others?**
6. **If time, look at 1 Samuel 24.1-20. You may need to summarise the narrative of verses 1-7. Then focus on David's actions and words after having refused to kill King Saul. Read verses 8-20. David sows obedience to God in sparing Saul. As a result of making his key moral choice, he later reaps huge blessings from God, following Saul's death, in becoming one of the greatest kings of Israel ever - in spite of some serious moral failings.
How does this challenge us in our daily lives? At home? In the workplace? In society? In our spiritual journeying?**
Does God forgive us for our failings, for not sowing always as we should?
7. **A central question is this: are we sowing what God would want us to sow in our lives?
How faithful are we to our faithful God?**