

Lesson 8: The Overflowing Home

I. Introduction

a.

II. KEY THOUGHT: A home overflows with whatever it is filled with

III. Filling our homes

a. With things

- i. Ex. Moving to Roanoke
- ii. Ex. Regular donations to Goodwill

b. With works of the flesh

- i. Gal. 5:19-21
- ii. Contentions
- iii. Jealousies
- iv. Outbursts of wrath
- v. Selfish ambitions
- vi. Envy
- vii. If we do not want our home to be overflowing with these things
 1. We must not put them in ourselves
 2. We must remove them when they get in

c. With the fruit of the Spirit

- i. Gal. 5:22-25
- ii. If we want our home to be overflowing with these things
 1. We must put them in by living and walking according to the spirit
 2. By crucifying the flesh and its lusts
 3. By being Christ's
- iii. We must encourage and nurture these things when there are there
 1. Praise
 2. Encouragement

d. With giving

- i. There is give and take in a home
- ii. But if a home is filled with taking, there will be nothing left
- iii. Luke 6:38

e. With Personal Responsibility

- i. "When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world.
As I grew wiser I discovered the world would not change—
So I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country,
But it too seemed immovable.
As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing my family, those closest to me,
But alas, they would have none of it.
And now I realize as I lie on my deathbed, if I had only changed myself first,
Then by example I might have changed my family,

From their inspiration and encouragement I would then have been able to better my country,
And who knows, I might have even changed the world.” – An inscription on a tomb dating from the 1100’s in London

ii.

- f. With service to God
 - i. Mal. 3:8-10
 - ii. Psalm 128:1-6

IV. The effects

a. You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7-8)

i. We decide what we plant in our lives by the choices that we make

1. Sowing to the flesh

- a. Planting things in our lives that appeal to the flesh and thrive there
- b. Results in corruption
- c. Galatians 5:19-21

2. Sowing to the spirit

- a. Planting things in our lives that appeal to our spiritual selves and that draw us toward God
- b. Results in eternal life
- c. Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25

*ii. Illustration: Choosing what vegetables to plant in the garden –
Corn? YES Beans? YES Carrots? YES Broccoli? YES
Eggplant? NO Radishes? NO*

iii. Application

- 1. Choose what you plant
- 2. Don’t allow anything to be planted that you don’t want to grow
 - a. Radio/TV/Internet
 - b. Books/Movies/Entertainment
 - c. Friends and Acquaintances

b. You reap in proportion to what you sow (2 Cor. 9:6)

i. If you want a bigger harvest, you have to do more planting

ii. How much fruit of the Spirit do you want in your life?

- 1. Love?
- 2. Joy?
- 3. Peace?
- 4. Longsuffering?
- 5. Kindness?
- 6. Goodness?
- 7. Faithfulness?
- 8. Gentleness?
- 9. Self control?

10. How much corruption do you want in your life?

c. You reap more than you sow (Hosea 8:7)

i. This law is critical to the success of agriculture

1. What if you sowed a bushel of corn, and the resulting crop was a bushel of corn? That would be a failure!
2. Corn farmers today require a 20-fold yield just to break even, and a good field may yield 200-fold or more under optimum conditions
3. All living things are designed to produce many more offspring than is necessary to replace the parents – God told the animals to “Be fruitful and multiply, Fill the earth, the sea and the air”
4. Like living things our deeds will produce an impact much larger than the energy put into the deed itself

ii. What does this mean in our spiritual lives?

1. Small acts can have large consequences
2. Large consequences for good – A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver Prov. 25:11
3. Large consequences for bad – A harsh word stirs up anger Prov 15:1

d. You reap in a later season than you sow (James 5:7-8)

i. We do not see the results of our efforts immediately

ii. Illustration: Checking to see if the beans have sprouted yet.

Digging up the ground to see if the roots are growing yet?

iii. Application: Current results may not predict future harvest

1. **The New Christian – They have been baptized into Christ**
 - a. They are forgiven of all their sins
 - b. They have changed their way of life
 - c. But they still continue to deal with the consequences of past sins.-
 - d. If they are faithful, they will patiently wait for the harvest of spiritual blessing that God intends for them to have
2. **The slipping Christian – They begin to fall away**
 - a. Their weakening often goes unnoticed by others, because the outward fruit reflect their past spiritual condition rather than their current unfaithfulness
 - b. They often are deceived into thinking they are ok, because the corrupt fruit of their unfaithfulness does not arrive until a later season
 - c. Example: A college student
 - i. Has grown up in a Christian home
 - ii. Goes away to school, and leaves their religion at home, or lets it gradually slip away
 - iii. They continue to benefit from the influence and teaching of their parents and other Christians
 - iv. Often they become deeply involved in sin, or unbelief, before the painful consequences of their actions bear fruit

- e. **Success depends on consistent hard work (Prov. 12:11)**
 - i. *Plowing, planting, fertilizing, watering, weeding, harvesting*
 - 1. All are necessary for a good harvest
 - 2. Illustration: I am a lot better at plowing and planting than weeding and watering
 - 3. That means I am not a good gardener
 - ii. *Suppose a farmer tried to farm the way that some pursue the Christian life*
 - 1. Raising corn – plow, plant, only water, fertilize or weed when it is convenient
 - 2. Raising a pig – Let the animal starve for most of its life and then cram all the food in the pig a week before slaughter
 - 3. “When I feel like it” and cramming doesn’t work on the farm, or in life, and it definitely doesn’t work in our spiritual lives
 - iii. *We need to have our spiritual armor on and get experience with it BEFORE we are in the thick of the battle*
 - iv. *We need to have God’s word in our hearts and lives BEFORE temptation comes*
 - v. *We need to be ready to give a defense BEFORE some one asks us a reason for the hope that is in us*
 - vi. *We need to be living the righteous life BEFORE our neighbor comes and asks for our help or advice (Proverbs 24:30-31)*
 - vii. *When is the best time to plant a tree? 20 years ago. When is the second best time to plant a tree? Now.*

V. Letting our homes overflow

- a. Luke 12:16-17
 - i. Don’t keep it all to yourself
 - ii. Let others share in it
- b. Overflowing with love and service
 - i. For God
 - ii. For Each other
 - iii. For the church
 - iv. For Neighbors
 - v. For the Lost

Luke 6:38 NKJV Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 12:16-17 NKJV Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

Galatians 6:7-9 NKJV Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Malachi 3:8-10 NKJV "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

Psalms 128:1-6 NKJV A Song of Ascents. Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. 2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. 5 The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. 6 Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!