

Coincidence, Consequence, and Conviction

Consequences and Results

Wk. 2

Have you or someone you know ever made a mistake (yea I know everyone) and afterwards someone says, "Well, that's what you get". It's usually in the context where someone has made the same mistake over and over again and they should know better but for whatever reason they don't. The person falls into a pattern of what seems like hopelessness but it's interesting that no matter how harsh the phrase "Well, that's what you get sounds" there is a principle within the phrase that will allow a person to break out of that pattern. Let me give you a few examples.

A friend of mine, Nathan, is in the navy, he graduated from the Citadel, which is military college. Every day at school he was required to run so many miles a day. Well, whenever he came down to see us he wouldn't run. Usually it was a holiday or a break or whatever, so we would eat a lot. Well after two or three days of eating and not running, he got out of shape. So whenever he would go back and start running his legs would be burning. He'd call me that day and you know I'd ask him "how was your trip" or "how's it going" his response always had something to do with being tired or his legs killing him. Well he ate for two or three days and never exercised, that's what you get right?

Here's another example, my oldest son Jacob is a dare devil. If it's dangerous, even in the slightest way, he wants to be on the edge of it. He's the only kid I know who's fallen out of multiple trees and hasn't broken a bone. When we lived in NC we had a clothes line pole, I'm not sure if you know what I'm talking about or not. But it's a steel pipe that looks like a "T" and you run clothes line from one end to the other. These pipes are concreted into the ground, not sure why they are only holding clothes, but anyways Jacob climbs up there and is hanging upside down like on a monkey bar, he's like 5 years old and he slips. He's like three feet in the air and lands head first on the concrete. He cried for like 3 hours, we just prayed and the next day he got up and he was fine. A few weeks ago he's trying to impress the little blonde girl next door. They're in the woods and he decides to jump from one tree to another, and doesn't quite make it. Ouch! Yea he was in some pain. Both case though, "Well that's what you get"... but in most cases that phrase is followed by some sort of explanation. "Well, that's what you get. Jacob if you hadn't been hanging upside down, this wouldn't have happened". "Hey Nathan, if you ran every day, whether you're at school or not, your legs wouldn't be killing you".

This concept is both common sense and scientific fact. Newton's third law of motion states "that for every action (force) in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction. In other words, when Jacob hit the concrete, his head has to go somewhere, or when I punch... ah I'll just you the video clip.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FqpDmUO0y0>

You see for everything that happens there is a reaction. And spiritually speaking for every decision we make there is a consequence or a result. The word consequence gets a bad rap, but in reality a consequence is just a result. You cheat on a test and fail, you face the consequences. You work hard and you ace the test, you still face consequences, but they are not bad, in fact they are really good. And no matter what type of life you live, whether you live by coincidence or purpose there's consequences for both. Last week we talked about the differences between the two and we said that living by coincidence is when stuff just happens, you just sort of float around. Purpose on the other hand, is believing and understanding that life is more than living, breathing, and dying. Living with purpose is believing and understanding that God specifically created us for His glory and that our purpose is directly tied to our creator. Both types of living have consequences and results.

With the exception of grace, we get what we deserve and there is always a consequence or result for every decision we make, every path we walk, and every choice we encounter. Deep

down we know this so we try to play games, sometime with others most of the time with God. We make a decision, follow a path, and even though we see the results around us, sometimes in our own parents, we're like "that'll never happen to me". I won't get caught, I might cheat on a test but I won't get caught. I'll do it just once, break a rule just once, try a drug just once, fool around just once, and sneak out just once and "that" won't be me. That's living by coincidence and there's consequences for it, just like there's consequences for living with purpose. This clip is a good example of trying things "just once"....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQQjn1h2B8U>

You see we can't play games with God, we can't say "just once" or "that won't be me". Listen to what scripture says...

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

The scripture tells us here, don't believe this lie. God cannot be mocked, he's not playing our "just once" and "it won't be me games". We see here in this passage that God is like, "Well this is what you get". It's like, we know what the consequences are, but we get stuck into this pattern of "just once" and "it won't happen to me". God's like "Well, that's what you get, I've saved you, and I've bought you back from death. I've told you what's expected of you and given you example after example, teaching after teaching, on how to live this way. I'm even willing to walk with you through this. But I'm not going to make you; you're going to reap what you sow"

This concept of reaping and sowing is an old farmer phrase. When a person sows they are spreading seeds and when they are reaping, they are bringing in the harvest. So the concept is simple. If I plant corn, what am I going to bring in, corn. If I plant tomatoes, what am I going to bring in, tomatoes? If I plant squash, I'm not pulling in pineapples, because the seeds the person sows are the fruit they are going to bring in.

What types of seeds in your life are you planting? You see we are all planting seeds, with the words we say, that attitudes we have, the stuff we listen to and watch. These are all seeds we plant and we'll reap their harvest. If we sow seeds of pride, we'll reap an arrogant, "I'm better than you", attitude. If we sow rebellion to our parents, we'll reap discipline.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Eph 6:2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— Eph 6:3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Heb 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? Heb 12:8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Heb 12:9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Heb 12:10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

On the other hand if sow seeds of love, will reap love. If we sow seeds of justice, sticking up for those who are mistreated, we'll reap peace.

God sums it up pretty well with the next verse

Gal 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

If we sow seeds that please ourselves, we'll reap pain, hurt, and destruction. On the other hand if we sow seeds that please God, we'll reap more of God. We will reap eternal life because people who sow seeds that please God belong to God. They are His kids. Are you one of God's kids? What types of seed are you sowing? Rebellion and lying hope and love?

You see over and over again we tend to make the same mistakes; we sow seeds of jealousy, anger, and hurt. Christ died and was raised again so that we could sow seeds of life, of love and of godliness. He died and rose so that we no longer sowed our own seeds and reaped the painful results of them. He died and rose so that we could plant his seeds.

Make no mistake about it, whether you choose to live by coincidence or with purpose you will plant seeds, and you will reap fruit. Don't believe the lie that tells us that it's "only just once" and that "it'll never happen to you" or "you won't be caught". Scripture is clear that God doesn't play those games, he's not going to be mocked and you will reap whatever fruit or vegetable you plant? What type of seed are you going to plant, what type of harvest will you receive?

Suggested Discussion Questions:

Highlighted Verses to add to discussion:

Psm. 81

Mt. 12:33

M.S. Questions:

1. Anyone ever tell you "well, that what you get" or "you got what you deserve"
2. What is sowing and reaping?
3. What type of fruit are you? (I realize this could be funny)
 - Use different characteristics of fruit to describe different people
 - Pineapples are pokey on the outside
(Why do we poke people, hurt, etc?)
 - Kiwi's are scratchy on outside
(Why do we irritate)
 - Banana's will constipate
(Ever back someone up into a corner)
 - Sweet fruit (apple/pear)
(Sweet, share, taste good, etc)

Use your imagination

Sr. High Questions:

1. What are you sowing and reaping?
2. Do you ever play the "just once" and "won't happen to me games"?
 - Do you ever play them with God?
3. Do we always get what we deserve? (no, there is grace but what you might want to emphasize is the patterns that are involved)
 - Although God continues to forgive there are only so many chances for repentance (Psm. 81, Luke 12:1-10, emphasize 10 *Heart had become so hard that blasphemed the Holy Spirit, does not enter into heaven*)