



Worship Resource

2014 World Fellowship Sunday – Additional Resources

Exegesis of 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

“The Seed of Wheat versus the Seed of Weeds” by Cynthia Peacock (India)

1. God is the giver of life. Jesus is the giver of abundant life to enjoy all God has bestowed upon us – not for us but for others, especially those who have less.
2. God’s promise is that if we sow what we have generously we will reap generously for all. That is how we extend God’s kingdom. Personal blessings are less when we give sparingly. God smiles when we give generously, willingly, and with a purpose.
3. When we sow and reap generously, we see God meeting all our needs to enjoy, be blessed and bless others (Proverbs 11:25)
4. The result of generous giving leads those being blessed to give thanksgiving to God.

Two farmers, one rich and the other poor, both prayed for a good harvest. One gave of whatever seeds he had and sowed generously and the other who had much sowed miserly, thinking all his seed might finish. God loves all and so gave growth to both. However, the first one received in plenty due to his generosity, right attitude, and his dependence on God for his daily needs, and because he wanted to share with others so that all may have enough and give thanks to God. The rich farmer received less because of his dependence on his own wisdom, knowledge, attitude of selfishness and lack of mindfulness of others’ needs – unaware of the weeds of destruction that were growing around.

Two types of seeds in the world.

1. Seeds of wheat which are supplied by God freely and abundantly (2 Corinthians 6:10)
 2. Seeds of weeds which are supplied by Satan so freely and bountifully (Matthew 13:25). We all are like farmers sowing seeds in life. The question we might want to ask is what kind of seeds are we sowing and what kind of a farmer are we. The Church is like a farmer that sows good or bad seeds and reaps what is sown.
1. God gives the seeds of wheat freely and bountifully to all farmers/sowers but the attitude determines what kind of a sower/farmer the Church is. There are three kinds of sowers:
 - a) Foolish sower: one who sows sparingly what which he/she receives from God freely; reaps less thus his/her benefits and blessings are less.
 - b) Hypocritical sower: one who sows to show people, whose heart is not right with God forgetting that God sees our heart (Jeremiah 17:10).
 - c) Wise sower: whose faith is only on God and in obedience sows and reaps generously for his/her own needs to be met as well as others’, especially those who have less, resulting in thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:6b) and in abundant harvest (2 Corinthians 9:10). He/she will be called righteous (2 Corinthians 9:9 & Psalm 112:9) – righteousness that is inter-related with action and faith.In Exodus 16 God gave his people Manna from heaven and instructed the Israelites to

gather enough for only that day and not to store up, but some were disobedient. They lost out on the blessings as the Manna spoiled. God's sunshine is on all people and on those who obey what Jesus taught. The Church, which is the body of Christ, will ensure that the manna or the blessings given to us will be shared with those who have less in order for God to use and bless us more to bring thanksgiving to God by those who receive. The world has those who have much and those who have less and the Church is called to teach and live out sowing generously that which God has given freely, so that there is equality and through it all God will be praised and honored and the Church will bring healing, restoration, joy and abundance in spirit, mind and body for all. We are all called to share our resources generously, knowing that God knows our hearts and will reward according to his riches in glory. Only then will brothers and sisters in both physical and spiritual needs be blessed and in turn sow their blessings with others and reap more blessings. Only then will our righteousness remain forever.

2. The seeds of weeds are the evil around us – selfishness, greed, violence, hatred, fighting, lack of forgiveness, etc. – and grow alongside the good seeds. We must shun all those seeds of weeds, giving ourselves, the Church, to nurture that which is good with faith, love and obedience for a good harvest.

The church is called to reflect on what kind of a people we are, knowing that God is faithful and expects that the believers in Christ, the body of Jesus, will be a living witness to the Gospel and bring forth bountiful blessings to one and all through sowing generously, cheerfully and with a purpose for a blessed harvest. Is my church aware of needs around and am I being faithful to God's call to sow and reap bountifully? This is an opportunity God is giving us all to become aware of each other's needs and stretch our hearts and hands to join in the kingdom building work for all to have enough for an abundant life in Jesus.

May God speak to each one of us to think and act in new ways that will bring honor to God and make this world a better place for His will to be accomplished through the Church.

Additional commentaries on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

(Both of the articles below can be downloaded at www.mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday)

1. "Responding to God's Generosity," by Lynn Miller in *Stewardship for All*, Good Books 2006
2. Believers Church Bible Commentary on 2 Corinthians by V. George Shillington, pages 194-200. Herald Press, 1998

Meditation text to read during worship

"Therefore, my children, love your neighbor heartily, and this with a liberal heart. Let the light of the Gospel shine in you... Deal your bread to the hungry, clothe the naked, and do not suffer anything to remain with you double, since there are enough that lack... And whatsoever the Lord grants you, that possess with thankfulness, not only for yourselves, but also for your neighbor, and seek not your own profit, but that of your neighbor." Maeyken of Deventer in a letter to her children in 1573, the year of her martyrdom as Anabaptist.

Additional music suggestions

Dalam Yesus Kita Bersaudara (Indonesia). Look for the audio file on the MWC website at www.mwc-cmm.org/article/world-fellowship-sunday

Dalam Yesus kita bersaudara
Dalam Yesus kita bersaudara
Selarang dan selamanya
Dalam Yesus kita bersaudara

In Jesus we are brothers and sisters.
In Jesus we are brothers and sisters.
Now and forevermore.
In Jesus we are brothers and sisters.