**Be Careful What You Sow, for You Will Reap It Later - You Can Count on That!**

Upon hearing about a believer who was angry and showed no mercy toward this brother for being negligent with his responsibility, I said, “That man needs to be careful in condemning others like that because what goes around comes around.” Someone heard this and commented, “Hey, that’s karma,” implying that I was adding some Hindu concept to the Christian faith! I was merely paraphrasing one of the most foundational laws that govern events that occur in our everyday living. It is called, “You reap what you sow,” and when this principle is properly understood and sensibly applied to our lives, it can be a powerful motivator for doing what is right and just.

*1. The Hindu concept of karma isn’t entirely wrong! Some of it is right on!*

a. Karma in Hinduism means action and it refers to the law of cause and effect, which is a critical component of reincarnation (i.e., the unending cycle or birth, death and rebirth). Several verses in the New Testament highlight this law of cause and effect. Galatians 6:7 says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Matthew 7:1 says, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” To what extent is the karma of Hinduism similar to the concept found in these verses?

b.From the Scriptural standpoint, why is karma not acceptable? (Hebrews 9:27)

*2. Let’s**examine the life of Judge Abimelech - son of Jerub-Baal (Gideon) - and the people of Shechem.*

a. Read Judges 9:1-6, 22. What did Abimelech do to become the judge of his people? What did he sow?

b.Read Judges 9:16-20. In rebuking the citizens of Shechem, Jotham points out their error and what might happen to them in their

future. What did they sow, and how will they reap?

*3. Did Abimelech and the people of Shechem end up reaping what they had sown?*

a. Read Judges 9:22-25.Did the good time between Abimelech and the people of Shechem last?

b. Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem (led by Gaal) went into war, and it ended very badly for the latter. Read their tragic end in Judges 9:39-49, 57. What happened? (Rom. 12:19). How did what Jotham said come true?

c. What happened to the vile Abimelech, a killer of his own brothers and an entire citizenry?Read Judges 9:50-56.

*4.**Matthew 7:1 (from Question 1b) shows the first aspect of sowing and reaping. What is the second aspect? (Galatians 6:7-10)*

**Application:** A sensible understanding of the law of sowing and reaping can motivate us to do what is right and just in the present. Share some things that you ended up reaping (good or bad) from what was sown earlier. Also, what are some things that you have been sowing that should be stopped at once in healthy fear of reaping its consequences?