



LIBERTY *Matters*

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTY TRUST

Charity Reg: CC11287

June 2013
Vol. 2, no. 55

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Welcome!

A special welcome to our new contributors from Auckland, Napier, Milford, Tauranga, Turangi, Kamo, Cambridge, Dargaville, Waitakere, Manukau, Glen Eden, Otahuhu, Northshore, Whakatane & Wellington.

It's wonderful to have you join us.

This Newsletter

In this Newsletter we are pleased to include some teaching on Stewardship and Sowing & Reaping - two important Bible principles that are just as true today as when Jesus first taught them two thousand years ago.

Please let us know if you'd like us to send you some brochures so you can easily share our message of liberty with your friends and families.



Financial Accounts

Our financial accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 have been completed and are available on our website at www.libertytrust.org.nz/accounts. We received over \$1million in donations from contributors for the first time, and because our expenses are so low we also increased our interest free lending through Ark Resources by \$1 million!

But for this purpose
I have raised you up,
to show you my power,
so that my name may be
proclaimed in all the earth.

Exodus 9:16

Friends Blessing

We have repeatedly found over our 24 years that our most effective form of advertising is word of mouth. The number one reason people join Liberty Trust is due to the recommendation of friends or family who have already joined.

In order to encourage, recognise and reward you for the great support you are **we wish to provide a \$100 contribution reward to all members who have others join Liberty Trust over the next six months (June - Dec) as a result of their encouragement.**

As we work together we can help so many more and introduce a new generation New Zealanders to the God who keeps his promises!

Tax-Deductibility Conclusion

Shortly after we sent our last newsletter we received notice from the Inland Revenue that because they have decided that donations by contributors intending to receive a loan are not tax-deductible, they intend to reverse all tax credits claimed by contributors for the years ended 31 March 2010, 2011 and 2012. Many of you did not receive rebates in these years so this will have no effect on you. However if you do receive a demand from IRD which you are unable to pay please let us know - perhaps we can assist you to meet the tax bill.

We sent a letter to all our contributors in April informing them of the IRD decision and enclosing a statement of the relevant period. If you did not receive this letter then please let us know and we can send another copy.

Inland Revenue have advised that donations to Liberty Trust continue to be tax-deductible, providing that the giver is not expecting a benefit for themselves or someone they nominate. We have now amended our joining form to make the distinction clear from the outset.

Rest assured that, tax-deductible or not, your contribution will continue to be used to bless others households and churches around New Zealand for generations to come!

God And Your Money

If you want to be a good steward of what God has entrusted to you, do these four things:

1. Be guided by wisdom, not impulse. Spending less than you earn is the key to financial security. When you're in debt over your head it pre-commits you and dictates what you can do down the road. What you do today is the only influence you have over tomorrow.

2. Be prepared for when emergencies arise - and they will. The Bible says, 'In the house of the wise are stores... but a foolish man devours all he has' (Pr 21:20).

3. Have a long-term financial goal and refer to it regularly.

4. Finally, don't just save, sow: '...whoever sows generously will also reap generously' (2 Cor 9:6).

Now, since every human enterprise is destined to go up in smoke but of God's kingdom '...there shall be no end...' (Is 9:7), it's not hard to figure out where you should invest, right?

'...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...' (Mtt 6:20). You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead'. Bottom line: if you want to know what's really important to you, observe what you do with your money.

Bob Gass, The Word for Today

Sowing and Reaping



Kelvin Deal
Chairman

"The business of the world is buying and selling. The business of the Kingdom is sowing and reaping." – Jean Boudou – South African barrister and world speaker

During the summer holidays I achieved a personal goal – a study of all the major Bible passages which teach on Sowing and Reaping. To my astonishment I found that there are none which teach directly on the subject. Always it is mentioned as a proof of some other principle being taught. I was left asking myself "Why?"

The conclusion I came to is that in Bible times, Sowing and Reaping was considered so obvious that it didn't need to be taught. Living in an agrarian economy, they understood that unless people sow, they simply couldn't reap.

How different our culture has become. Today at school, children are taught differently for the sake of their self-esteem. They are taught that they are 'number one'. The world owes them a living. Consequently they leave school thinking that they are free to do what they please. Then at about age 30-40 they come to us, holding hands, and asking: "can Liberty Trust help them buy a home?" They are finally coming to realise that they have been sold a lie. Life is really about responsibilities and relationships. They have just talked to a bank lending officer and are shocked at what they have learned. Unfortunately they have just lived 20 years of spending on themselves, and made no provision for the future. They have never understood what was fundamental in Bible times – that unless you sow you won't reap (Gal.6:7-10).

We tend to think that Sowing and Reaping is principally about money, but we are wrong. It is a natural rhythm that is fundamental to all of life. Yet today many of us still carry 'the world's' thinking into our lives. For example, adolescents spend years looking for a partner who will give them what they want – a partner to enjoy life with.

Jesus however taught that life a matter of Sowing and Reaping. -*"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

We tend to give only 'so much' into our marriages, still believing that our life is our own. We retain our rights. We even call our spouse our "partner", as if the marriage relationship is a 50/50 partnership where each should only give 50%. Jesus would reply that if we only give 50% - we will only get 50%. The more we give - the more we will 'reap'.

Jesus further illustrated the principle in John 12:24 when teaching of His imminent death. He said: *"Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds."* Jesus gave His everything (John 3:16) so that we might live.

I have always likened contributions given into Liberty Trust, or elsewhere into God's Kingdom, as Sowing before Reaping. While this is correct, my vision has been too small. While financial giving will result in financial blessing, the blessings far exceed just financial blessings. If we are to reap the life that Jesus meant for each one of us in John 10:10: *"I am come that they may have abundant life"*, then we have to lay down our old lives completely and take up His. Jesus said to the rich young man who asked him how to inherit eternal life: *"Go, sell everything you have and give it to the poor"*. Yes, Jesus' heart ached for him, but he could accurately see that he was living for himself. As Jesus also said in Luke 12:33 *Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.*

It reminds me of a story told of a rich man who died and asked St Peter (at the gate) if he could bring it all in with him. *"You can only bring in that which you have given away,"* replied Peter.

Unlike the agrarian economy of the day, Jesus taught in His parables that good seed always multiplies when it is planted in good soil. I see an obvious example of Sowing & Reaping in families. The amount that parents give in training their children up to about age 12, and the example they set them after that, will have a huge influence upon their children's lives. Nevertheless, no matter what they sow, it is finally the children's own choice which will determine what they reap. We simply have to teach this to our children. Paul says in Gal. 6:7: *"Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 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."*

Unconsciously the world today still understands that sowing is necessary before reaping, *"but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things, come in and choke the world"* Mark 4:19. Training in finances has to start as young children (Prov. 22:6) or the world's message will later choke it. This is why we are so earnest in our cry to parents to introduce their children to sowing into Liberty Trust at a minimum, as part of their training for life. As parents we know it from first-hand experience.



Best wishes, Kelvin

