

June 27, 2021
Aldersgate UMC of Butte, MT
Pastor Matthias Krier

Message

You Reap What You Sow



Why is such a simple principle as what you see on screen so hard to understand as well as live out in our daily lives? Imagine if we as Christians including politicians, world leaders, clergy, lawyers, news media organizations would simply understand this basic principle of life, our world would look differently. This past week our Mid Week Reflections group got on the subject of what Christian missionaries were sowing when Native Americans were being pushed onto reservations and forced into Christian Schools, which begs the question, “Were they really *“Christian?”* If we truly operate with WWJD in mind: **What Would Jesus Do**, it is hard to imagine Jesus condoning the stripping of Native Americans of their culture and their religion, not to mention their clothes and cutting off their hair!

We believe this to be awful, but are we examining the way folks are being treated today with WWJD in mind? May we reflect on WWJD with folks from all walks of life including minorities, those living close or below the poverty level, homeless, those unable to have adequate health care, our LGBTQIA siblings and those seeking asylum in the United States. When we as well as our leaders in government are struggling with an issue, I

believe it would be most helpful to be reflecting on WWJD and if you are not a Christian asking this question:



Yes, we would sow seeds of hope, peace, joy, love, kindness and forgiveness if we simply lived by this basic principle. When faced with something very challenging in your life, just ask yourself this question, *“What Would Love Do Now?”*

The way the Message Bible translates our passage for today is as follows:

Galatians 6:7-8 Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

Well intentioned Christians and even church ushers have said and done things that were damaging to building the kingdom of God.

I have actually heard stories in almost every single church I have ever served like this one illustrated here:

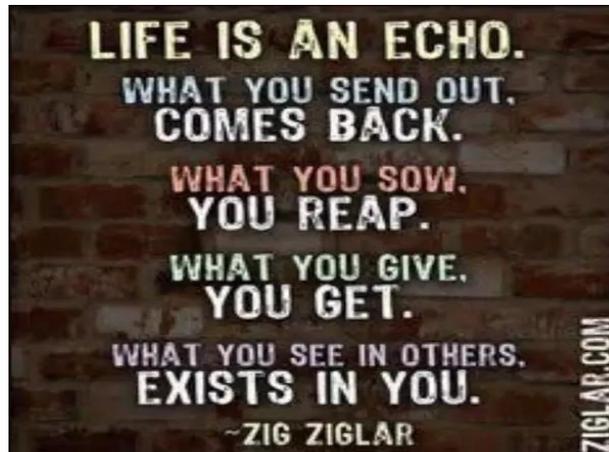


**“Welcome to our Church -- even though
you’re sitting in our family pew ...”**

How many of you have heard stories like this one?

Seriously, one of the worst things you can do to folks visiting a church is to say and do something like this. This well intentioned man is actually saying something to the effect: *“We really don’t want to grow as a church, we say we do, but could you kindly go elsewhere!”* Or it could be something like this: *“We kind of like things the way they are and new people coming in disrupts our way of being with each other. Just so you know, the two front pews are rarely occupied for whatever reasons, so you could sit there.”*

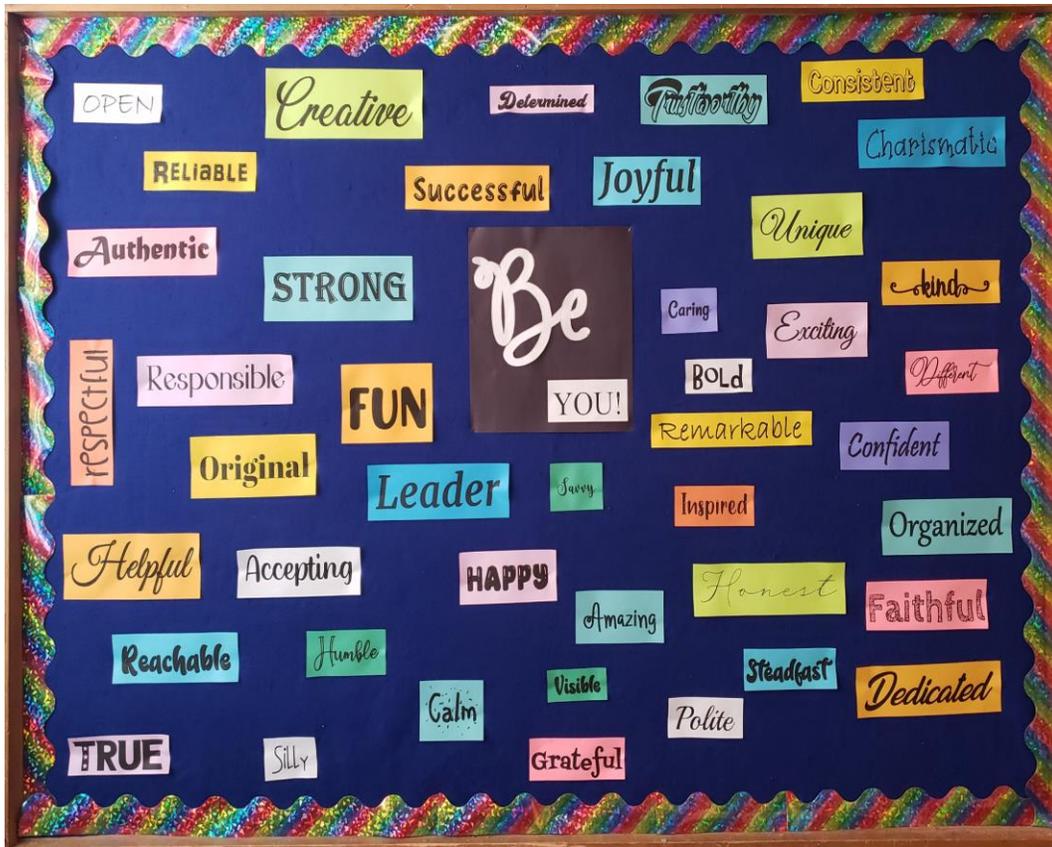
Now, I realize that change is hard and that we are creatures of habit, but growing the **kingdom of God** here on earth means we do not get possessive of our seat at church because it is not our seat to possess. AS you have heard me say before, this is not your church, this is not my church. This church belongs to Jesus Christ! With that in mind, Jesus takes us out of our comfort zones and oftentimes turns our world upside down, so expanding on these words, *“You Reap What You Sow”* just a bit is this quote:



Let us pause for just a moment to respond or to react to these words ... whether we like it or not, *"Life is what you make it."* Let me say that more emphatically:



We reap what we sow not only on our planet, but in our relationships. Kathy Davis created a wonderful bulletin board for us to meditate on all summer! Incidentally, Kathy did not know what I was planning for the Summer Sermon series when she was designing the bulletin board. It was no doubt a God-moment as I saw her putting all these words up on the bulletin board:



This is just the beginning of all the things that God is calling us to be every day of our lives! And how is this possible? **“By the Grace of God!”**

No matter which one is speaking to you the loudest, we are called to be all that we can be! So be steadfast in being **positive** and **hopeful** in a negative and discouraging world. I will be asking Kathy to add these two words to the bulletin board: Be **hopeful** and **positive** in our way of being in this world! No matter where you are in life, you can be planting seeds of **positivity** and **hopefulness** wherever you go.

I believe that as a people and as a nation as well as global citizens, we may be facing some extremely difficult challenges ahead in the way of climate change as well as on the political scene.

As Christians striving to be disciples of Christ, we are called to be messengers of hope and peace to somehow bring harmony to a world that

is not living harmoniously. It begins at home. It starts with us. What seeds are we sowing not only as Christians, but as fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, as co-workers in our places of employment. Each day, ask yourself, what am I sowing today?

In a few moments we will be preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Listen to verse two of "Hope of the World":

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let thy Spirit unto us be given,
To heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.**

We are called to be all kinds of things in a hurting and troubled world ... I have a word that I will focus on this week ... what is a word or two you are going to focus on as you strive to be a follower of Jesus?

Hymn of Preparation # 170

"Hope of the World" v. 2