



VIDEO DISCUSSION | WEEK 4

Sermon: February 1, 2026

CONTRIBUTING TO THE KINGDOM: SOWING TO GAIN GROUND (2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11)

Sowing generously today ensures a Kingdom harvest tomorrow; generosity is God's strategy for gaining ground.

HOOK

MAIN POINT: Sowing generously today ensures a Kingdom harvest tomorrow; generosity is God's strategy for gaining ground.

In the final days of baseball's dead ball era (prior to the meteoric rise of Babe Ruth), the 1919 Chicago White Sox took the field against the Cincinnati Reds in a best-of-nine World Series. The fix was in. Eight Chicago players, infamously referred to as the "Black Sox," participated in an effort to intentionally lose and throw the series to the tune of \$80,000 (\$1.5m today). Unsurprisingly, the heavily favored Sox lost the series 5 games to 3. The details of the scandal began to drip out shortly after. Every player that participated in the greed received a lifetime ban from baseball, including Shoeless Joe Jackson, who was on the trajectory to be immortalized in the Hall of Fame.

The players who worked with gamblers to create the fix showed their true heart towards baseball. They played not for a love of the game, but with hopes of enriching themselves. Not only did they miss out on the reward of a championship (and the bonuses that would have come with it), but they missed out on the opportunity to ever compete on the field again.

As Christ-followers, greed is one of the key temptations that can hold us back from contributing to Kingdom efforts and being a part of what God is doing through his Church. The Church, which God has preserved for 2000 years, will continue on without us, but it should be our desire to sow generously and reap the spiritual rewards of being part of the victorious team of Christ. We don't want to miss out on what the Lord is doing!

BOOK

MAIN POINT: *Sowing generously today ensures a Kingdom harvest tomorrow; generosity is God's strategy for gaining ground.*

Begin the video now, pause when prompted, then walk through the discussion points below

Talking Point 1: Good stewards sow bountifully

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

- Q: What is a steward?
- Q: What does it look like to “reap bountifully” if it is more than mere financial gain?
- Q: Why does Paul specifically call out the reluctant giver? If they are giving regardless, why does he care?

Galatians 6:7-9 says, *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”* Paul applies “sowing” and “reaping” to more than just financial giving. He applies it to Christian living. In other words, the righteous follower of Christ will be rewarded, and the wicked will deal with the consequences of their wickedness. Again, the reward is far greater than cash value.

- Q: Apart from financial giving, what might it look like to “sow to the Spirit”?

Resume the video

Talking Point 2: Good stewards live righteously and make a lasting impact

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:8-9

- Q: How did you “steward” your life before you became a Christ follower?
- Q: What does it look like to “abound in every good work”?
- Q: In what way does generosity today make a lasting impact?
- Q: According to these verses, what is the connection between God’s grace and our giving?

Resume the video

Talking Point 3: Good stewards depend on God for the harvest

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

God is sovereign over all. The harvest depends on him. He blesses us with the responsibility of working the field, and he gives us the seeds to plant. But he provides the rain and sprouts the fruit.

- Q: How have you seen God supply the seed and bread?
- Q: Where in this principle of generosity is it easiest to get off track? Why?
- Q: Why should generosity lead us to thanksgiving?



MAIN POINT: Sowing generously today ensures a Kingdom harvest tomorrow; generosity is God's strategy for gaining ground.

Spend a few minutes discussing the practical applications of today's passage:

- Q: In what ways does Gaining Ground represent generosity for our community?
- Q: Where can you "sow" for the Kingdom? (think beyond just financially)
- Q: Who is an individual or a family that you can be generous to this week?

Spend the last few moments praying that God would break down any mental or emotional hurdles that might prevent you from willingly and cheerfully giving.