**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, August 28, 2020**

Good afternoon!

I received a text the other day from my friend and preacher in NY. He said that an older woman in her eighties was looking for me and left a message on the church answering machine along with her phone number. It has been 25 years since I ministered there, but when he shared her name, I immediately knew who it was. This was my daughter Brooke’s third-grade school teacher! Wow! What in the world was this all about? Margie and I had developed a good friendship with her back then. She was a wonderful person. I remember talking to her about the Lord and inviting her to church. She was a super teacher for our young daughter but when we moved from NY, we lost touch. Now all these years later she was calling again? When I called the number, she left on the answering machine it was indeed Mary! She said that she always felt a connection with Brooke and was thankful for our godly family. She said that she had been trying to remember the name of the church where I ministered for years. Then, recently as she was looking for something and going through an old box, she came across the church card I had given her back when we first met. She said that she needed to call. Margie and I spoke with her on the phone for over an hour. She is now faithfully attending church and is growing in her faith. It turns out that she now lives in NC close to my daughter Brooke! We plan on getting together again at some point and continue our talk!

You never know what will take place with the seeds of faith that we the sow. However, there is one thing that we do know; God’s word will never come back empty! Whether it happens quickly or over many years, the word of God is powerful and timeless! Listen to what God teaches us about this point.

• “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11

• “Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.” John 4:36-38

In some cases, we may not even see the results of our sowing. However, sharing the word of God is always the right thing as some sow and others reap, but in the end, both rejoice. Years ago, I was out fishing with a young man named Phil. In the early morning hours as we drifted out in the bay not having much luck fishing, the conversation turned to the bible and Jesus. I sowed much seed that morning. Soon after that conversation, I moved out of state. A few weeks later I got a call that Phil was baptized into Christ. What I began to sow others finished and reaped. I can repeat this story over and over many times with many others. The reverse is true as well! While in my office at the church building one morning, I was paid a visit by another young man. He said that he needed to be baptized into Christ. I wasn’t used to people just coming in unannounced and turning themselves in for Christ! After talking with him I discovered that his grandmother had been studying with him for some time, long-distance over the phone. Again, one sowed another reaped!

You never know what will take root in the hearts of people when we sow the word of God! You may be thinking, I have been sharing God’s word for many years and still have not seen any fruit. Jerimiah the prophet proclaimed God’s message for 50 years without a single positive response. In fact, he suffered a lot of negative reaction. However, many years later when what he said finally seem to be coming true as he said God would do, at that moment it brought credibility and faith to those who reflected back on it with a genuine heart. Again, God’s word never comes back empty!

It is not our responsibility to control how people respond but only to sow the word of God and let it do its work. There is a great harvest out there that God is looking to reap! Let’s be sowing the seed!

Have a great weekend,

Mike