

Time of Sowing

By Thomas A. Davis

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A very famous poet once declared that "The child is father of the man." And most people agree that he is right.

Now you know what he meant, don't you? He was telling us that what Jimmy Brown, and Mary Brown too, will be when they are forty, depends upon what Jimmy Brown and Mary Brown are when they are fifteen and eighteen years old. For, you see, a man is just a youth grown up, and a woman is just a teen-age girl matured and readied for life.

This past summer I was at camp meeting when a man came up to me and said, "Do you remember me?" I looked at him, and began to stir my memory vigorously in order to recall his name, but it just wouldn't come. There were things about him that were familiar, but I just couldn't think of his name. At last I had to confess failure. So he said, "I'm Freddy Green [that isn't really the name he mentioned]. We attended the same church school together." At once I remembered him, but I saw him as a small boy in perhaps the second grade when I was several grades further along. Now his hair was a little thin. He wore glasses. He was quite a number of years older. But behind all the changes was the same face. But, more than that, I could now recognize something of the character of the boy I knew so many years ago.

Have you ever learned these lines? If not, here is a good chance to do so, for they are well worth remembering.

"Sow a thought; reap an action.
 Sow an action; reap a habit.
 Sow a habit; reap a character.
 Sow a character; reap a destiny."

Young people, today you are in the springtime of life, the time when the sowing is done. You are sowing thoughts and actions that are already developing into habits that will become part of you. And they will decide what your characters will be as men and women. And the characters you are now developing

will at last decide forever what eternity will be for you. That is a very serious thought, isn't it?

David sowed in his boyhood the seeds that made him a great king. Samuel sowed that which made him one of the greatest and most respected leaders of Israel, and John the Baptist sowed that which inspired Christ to say that "there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist." And Cain, Esau, and Judas also sowed, but their sowing was unto eternal death.

Even Jesus sowed in His youth.

And of His development we read that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

Ask yourselves some questions right now, just to check up. What kind of a "father" or "mother" am I being to that growing man or woman in me? Am I being careful to see that the man or woman I will be several years from now will be a good man or woman? Will I be honest, kind, cooperative? Will I love and serve Jesus? Will I really be a mature Christian without all the childish whims and fancies?

Perhaps you have never before realized what a great responsibility you have as a "parent" in training that man or woman you will be tomorrow. But there is something much, much more important to realize, and that is that "we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ," to give an account of the way we have trained ourselves. So let us today ask Jesus to give us wisdom and strength to be sure that each of us succeeds in building that life into the stature of a full-grown man or woman in Christ Jesus.



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Youth may sow in such a way as to make their lives a harvesttime of blessing.