

THE LAW OF THE HARVEST: BIBLICAL CAUSE AND EFFECT

Series 2: Small Seeds, Big Harvests

Main Text: Proverbs 4:23

Key Truth: Small choices eventually shape character.

Format: Hook–Pain–Solution–Call to Action (**H.P.S.CTA**)

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” —Proverbs 4:23

1. **HOOK:** SMALL THINGS DO NOT ALWAYS REMAIN SMALL

Good morning, Alicia Alliance Church!

A grain of rice is small enough to hold between two fingers. But when it is planted and cultivated, it can multiply into a harvest that feeds many people.

The same is true of our choices.

A short prayer may seem small, but repeated daily, it can build a strong spiritual life.

One lie may appear harmless, but repeated often, it can form a dishonest character.

One encouraging word can restore someone’s hope. One careless word can remain in a child’s memory for years.

We sometimes excuse our actions by saying:

“Gamay ra man ni—this is only a small thing.”

But small things do not always remain small.

A thought becomes a choice.

A repeated choice becomes a habit.

A habit shapes character.

Character produces a harvest.

Proverbs 4:23 warns us: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

The heart is the soil where the seeds of character grow.

Here is our key truth: **Small choices eventually shape character.**

The question is: **What small seeds are you allowing to grow in your heart?**

2. **PAIN:** UNGUARDED HEARTS PRODUCE PAINFUL HARVESTS

In the Bible, the heart represents our thoughts, desires, motives, values, and will. It is the inner source of our outward actions.

Jesus said: “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” —Matthew 12:34

Our words and actions reveal what has been growing inside us.

Angry words may reveal stored bitterness.

Dishonesty may reveal repeated compromise.

Immoral actions may reveal desires that were secretly entertained.

Gossip may reveal pride, jealousy, or resentment.

The problem is that we often ignore sinful seeds because they appear small.

We say:

- “It is only one lie.”
- “It is only one angry comment.”
- “It is only one inappropriate video.”
- “It is only a small amount of money.”
- “Everyone is doing it.”

- “Nobody will know.”

But every repeated compromise trains the heart.

This is especially dangerous in the digital age. Facebook, TikTok, YouTube, online entertainment, and group chats continually offer seeds for our hearts.

We cannot continually feed on anger and expect peace.

We cannot continually watch immoral content and expect purity.

We cannot continually spread gossip and expect healthy relationships.

We cannot continually compare ourselves with others and expect contentment.

We cannot continually tolerate dishonesty and expect integrity.

Pain in Our Families

Parents plant seeds in their children through daily examples.

Children may forget some of our instructions, but they remember what they repeatedly see.

When they see prayer, honesty, forgiveness, respect, and faithful worship, seeds of godly character are planted.

But when they constantly hear shouting, insults, gossip, dishonesty, and disrespect, those things also become seeds.

The spiritual direction of a home is often shaped by small daily choices.

Pain in Our Nation

The moral condition of the Philippines is connected to the character of its citizens.

Large-scale corruption often begins with small personal compromises:

- Keeping money that does not belong to us
- Giving false information
- Offering or accepting favors for dishonest advantage
- Misusing public property
- Ignoring wrongdoing because it benefits us

A culture of corruption is the large harvest of tolerated small compromises.

We desire honest leaders, but honesty must also be practiced in our homes, churches, schools, businesses, barangays, and workplaces.

Our nation’s character is influenced by the character of ordinary Filipinos.

However, our deepest problem is not only the harmful influences around us. Sin is also present within the human heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 says: “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”

We cannot completely transform our hearts through willpower alone. We need a Savior.

3. SOLUTION: CHRIST GIVES US A NEW HEART AND A NEW HARVEST

The good news is that Jesus Christ came to change our hearts and redirect our lives.

On the Cross, Jesus carried the punishment for all the sinful seeds we have planted. He died for our dishonesty, pride, bitterness, lust, hatred, selfishness, and disobedience.

He rose again so that everyone who repents and believes in Him can receive forgiveness and new life.

Second Corinthians 5:17 says: “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Your previous planting does not have to determine your final harvest.

You may have planted anger, but Christ can teach you forgiveness.

You may have planted dishonesty, but Christ can form integrity within you.

You may have planted impurity, but Christ can cleanse your heart.

You may have planted spiritual neglect, but Christ can restore your love for God.

Jesus does not merely improve our outward behavior. He transforms us from within.

When we surrender to Christ, the Holy Spirit begins producing a new harvest: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” —Galatians 5:22–23

How, then, do we guard our hearts?

Fill your heart with God’s Word

God’s Word helps us recognize what is true, pure, and righteous.

Before accepting a message or influence, ask:

- Does this agree with Scripture?
- Will this help me become like Christ?
- What kind of fruit will this produce?

Remain connected to Christ

Jesus said: “Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself.” —John 15:4

Christlike character does not come from trying harder alone. It develops as we remain in Christ through prayer, Scripture, worship, obedience, and Christian fellowship.

Practice small acts of obedience

Spiritual growth often happens through simple but consistent choices:

- Pray before opening social media.
- Read one chapter of Scripture each day.
- Speak truth even when lying is easier.
- Forgive instead of seeking revenge.
- Return what does not belong to you.
- Attend worship faithfully.
- Begin a short family devotion.
- Encourage one person each day.
- Share the Gospel when God gives an opportunity.

Do not underestimate small acts of obedience. God uses them to form strong character.

4. CTA: CHANGE THE SEED TO CHANGE THE HARVEST

Proverbs 4:23 says: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

Today, God is calling us to take three actions.

Remove one harmful seed

What sinful habit, thought, attitude, influence, or relationship have you tolerated?

Do not excuse it because it seems small. Confess it to God and remove it before it produces a painful harvest.

Plant one godly seed

Choose one small act of obedience to begin today:

- Daily prayer
- Bible reading
- Family devotion
- Forgiveness
- Honest work
- Faithful giving
- Church involvement
- Discipleship
- Sharing Christ

Start small, but remain faithful.

Surrender your heart to Christ

Perhaps you are already experiencing the painful harvest of previous choices.

Come to Jesus.

You cannot change yesterday's planting, but through Christ, you can begin a new season today.

Repent of your sins. Believe that Jesus died and rose again for you. Ask Him to forgive you, cleanse your heart, and become the Lord of your life.

Remember:

Small thoughts become choices.

Repeated choices become habits.

Habits shape character.

Character produces a harvest.

Therefore:

Guard your heart.

Choose your seeds carefully.

Remain connected to Christ.

Small choices eventually shape character, and small seeds can produce big harvests.

CLOSING PRAYER