

John 4:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

Analysis

The saying 'One soweth, and another reapeth' acknowledges different roles in gospel ministry. No worker accomplishes conversion alone—we stand in succession with those who preceded us and prepare for those who follow. This counters pride (we didn't do it all) and encourages faithfulness (our work matters even if we don't see harvest).

Historical Context

This proverb (cf. Job 31:8, Micah 6:15) typically had negative connotation (one person labors, another enjoys), but Jesus transforms it positively to describe cooperative kingdom work across generations.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing we are part of a chain of gospel workers affect our ministry perspective?
2. What does it mean to faithfully sow even when we may not see the harvest in our lifetime?

Interlinear Text

ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ ὁ λόγος ἐστὶν ὁ ἀληθινὸς ὅτι
herein **And** G5129 G3588 **that saying** **is** G3588 **true** G3754
G1722 G1063 G3056 G2076 G228

ἄλλος ἐστὶν ὁ σπείρων καὶ ἄλλος ὁ θερίζων
One **is** G3588 G4687 **and** **One** G3588 **reapeth**
G243 G2076 G2532 G243 G2325

Additional Cross-References

Micah 6:15 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.