



Strawback & Crow

By Deborah Wassenberg

Story 3: Seed for Need
2 Corinthians 9:6

Crow flew down to the strawberry patch and landed on Strawback the scarecrow's raggedy shoulder.

'Crow,' said Strawback, 'where have you been? I haven't seen you for days.'

'Caw,' cried Crow. 'It's because of that terrible tabby cat. She snuck up on me the other day and pounced on my tail feathers. I gave her a peck and she let me go but it gave me a scare I can tell you. I flew over the kitchen garden a few times before landing just to make sure it was safe.'

'Oh dear! I'm glad you're alright, Crow. I've missed you.'

'Why is that old cat prowling around here for anyway? She usually sleeps on the front porch all day.'

'Mice,' said Strawback.

'What mice?' asked Crow.

'Mr. Farmer has been sowing seed and it has a way of spilling all over the place. Mice love eating seed so they've come from all over the fields to gobble it up. They're running around the farm and even in the house. Mrs. Farmer isn't pleased. She told tabby cat to do her job and catch them.'

'Well, that cat had no need to ambush me. I'm not eating any of the seed. Mind you, I wouldn't say no to mouse for lunch. Why doesn't Mr. Farmer just stop throwing the seed all over the place? If he was more careful there'd be no mice and that cat would be safely on the front porch, sleeping in the sun, instead of attacking my tail feathers.'

'Funny you should say that Crow. I heard Mr. Farmer talking to Mrs. Farmer and his children about that last night. When Mr. Farmer sows the seed some of it does get spilled on the ground. He could keep it safely stored in the barn and never lose any of it. But at harvest time he'd have nothing to reap, because all the seed is in the barn and not in the ground where it would have grown into grain.'

'So, even if you spill some seed on the ground, you don't lose when you sow?' asked Crow.

'That's right,' said Scarecrow. 'And the more you sow the more you reap. Mr. Farmer said it's the same when you give money. You can hold onto your money...'

'Like storing seed in the barn?'

'Yes, or you can decide to give your money to people who need it.'

'Oh, I know. I know. That's like sowing the seed in the ground,' said Crow, hopping down Scarecrow's arm onto his gloved hand.

'What you give is up to you. You can give a little and you'll receive a little. Or you can give a lot and you'll receive a lot.'

'Someone should tell that to the tabby cat and make her share a mouse or two with me.'

'But you have to give with a happy heart, Crow. Not because you were forced to. You can't give with regret or give out of guilt. God loves a cheerful giver. If you give happily He will give you more than you need. And after the giving is done God gets all the thanks.'

'That's because everything belongs to Him anyway, doesn't it Scarecrow.'

'It sure does.'

'Except maybe that cat!'