

There's Still Time

"A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down'" (Luke 13:6-9).

Bearing good fruit glorifies God and identifies you as Christ's disciple. Good fruit is anything with eternal value concerning where HE'S called you to labor. The bad news is your attitude and actions can mess it up every time! In order to bear good fruit you must be focused on eternal goals as you work with all your heart to bring about his purposes (good fruit).

The biblical Hebrew and Greek words for "fruit" translates throughout scripture and has a symbolic purpose behind each use. Scripture often likens people to fruit trees or grapevines as it portrays God as the owner of these orchards and vineyards.

I want you to think about this? If God came and sat down right beside you, what would He say to you about some of your fruit? I want you to be encouraged that God alone has the supreme authority to define good and bad fruit...

Fruit can mean- results, products, outcomes, accomplishments, achievements or "the fruit of one's mouth." An individual's character can be identified by its fruit (Matthew 12:33), and those who operate in the flesh are not going to bear much fruit.

Jesus warned, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and is thrown into the fire" to be destroyed (Matthew 7:19). The condition of bearing fruit is not only necessary but vital for your existence in HIM.

He wants you in the place of bearing continual fruit in Him and not bearing fruit is a serious matter. Look at what HE says in Matthew 7:15 regarding someone who does not bear fruit.

Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of the wolves that look like sheep...[16] You will know them by what they produce. "People don't pick grapes from thorn-bushes or figs from thistles, do they? [17] In the same way every good tree produces good fruit, but a rotten tree produces bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a rotten tree cannot produce good fruit. [19] Any tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into a fire. [20] So you will know them by what they produce.

Notice Matthew 7:15 starts with the word, "BEWARE" and He is saying this for a reason. Beware means to be cautious and alert to the dangers of not bearing fruit. HE is warning you about the dangers of not bearing fruit. Bearing fruit is always possible. You are promised an effective life if you remember that part from HIM you can do nothing. Apart from HIM you produce no fruit, which means when you include HIM you will bear fruit.

If the keeper of the vineyard asked for another year, during which time he would fertilize the soil to encourage growth, you can too. After all, this passage illustrates God's patience with you!

Today's message is to encourage you there's still time to bear fruit in areas you thought were dead. Now is not time to quit. Go before Lord, asking Him to give you time as you dig around and fertilize those areas with His Word.

Acting on your own will never produce spiritual. But with Him, it's a guarantee you'll produce good fruit every time!

Dr. Rev. Gina Cobb
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