

Go and Bear Fruit

October 18, 2020

John 15:1-8, 16

The mission of the Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel through all the world and **by making disciples who make disciples.**

I. How does Jesus want His followers (disciples) to “bear fruit”?

- The “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23) – Christlike character
- The “fruit of righteousness” (Philippians 1:11) – Christlike conduct
- The “fruit of the harvest” (John 4:25-28) – making disciples of others

II. Four levels of “fruitfulness” in John 15:1-8

- “no fruit”
- “fruit”
- “more fruit”
- “much fruit”

III. How does God move us from one level of “fruitfulness” to the next?

- He “removes / takes away” those who bear “no fruit” (v. 2a)
- He “prunes” us so that we can bear “more fruit” (v. 2b)
- He produces “much fruit” in us as we “abide” in Christ (v.5)

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'Connecting' Questions:

- 1) If you are married, briefly share how you met your spouse. (If there is a particularly humorous story about your courtship, share that!)
- 2) If you are not married, briefly share about a particularly close friend, and how you met.

'Applying the Word' Questions:

- 1) Read together John 15:1-8. Discuss what the "fruit" is that Jesus wants His disciples to produce. Consider the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23), the "fruit of righteousness" (Philippians 1:11), and the 'fruit' of the "harvest" of souls (John 4:35-38).
- 2) Discuss who the "branches" are that "bear no fruit" in John 15:2. How does Jesus look at 'fruit-bearing' as evidence of our discipleship?
- 3) Discuss what Jesus means in John 15:2 when He says that His Father "prunes" us so that we will "bear more fruit." How have you experienced this 'pruning' in your life? How has it increased the 'fruit-bearing' in your life?
- 4) Dan shared his belief that God 'prunes' both individuals and churches, and that he believes that God is providentially using the disruptions and restrictions of the current Covid pandemic to 'prune' Calvary. Discuss whether you agree or disagree. If you agree, what do you think is the additional 'fruitfulness' that God desires to see at Calvary as a result of this pruning?
- 5) Read John 15:5 together again and discuss what you think it means for us to "abide in Christ" and to let Christ abide in us. Discuss what this practically means on a daily basis for us, and how we can fully submit to and cooperate with this 'abiding'.
- 6) Dan began his sermon with the question he was asked in the parking lot at the end of last week's sermon: *"Why would someone want to move from Chair 2 to Chair 3 & 4?"* In other words, if we know we're saved and going to heaven, why should we care about 'bearing fruit'? Discuss how you would respond to that question.
- 7) Discuss how you can pray for each other to "abide in Christ" and "bear fruit."