

Sunday Morning Message

July 30, 2017 (Edited from a message originally preached on January 22, 2012)

Title – “Herein Is My Father Glorified”

Topic – The Plan for Bearing Fruit

Text – John 15:1 – 8

Congregational Reading – John 15:5 - 8

Introduction

We have been preaching through a mini-series of messages on the topic, “Go and Bring Forth Fruit”

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain” (John 15:16a)

Review from previous messages:

Two messages ago we started a series of messages from the Gospel of John, chapter 15, on the subject of Fruit Bearing:

- 1 Week One – “Without Me Ye Can Do Nothing” – The Power of Fruit Bearing – Abiding in Christ.
- 2 Week Two – “Ask What Ye Will” – The Prayer of Fruit Bearing – tailoring our prayer life on the needs of others – specifically praying about fulfilling the Great Commission.

This week – we will be discussing The Plan for Bearing Fruit

Explain the title – “Herein Is My Father Glorified” (from v. 8)

We sometimes say that we exist to bring glory to God, and that’s true – but according to v.8, one of the primary ways that we glorify God on this earth is to bear fruit.

There are two ways that we bear fruit: really, two levels of fruit bearing.

- 1 We bear fruit when we yield control of our lives to the Holy Spirit of God Who indwells us (all believers).

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” - (Galatians 5:16, 22-23)

“...be filled with the Spirit;” - (Ephesians 5:18b)

When the Holy Spirit is controlling you and flowing through you, your life will have an impact on the people around you.

2 When we are filled with the Spirit of God, we then become witnesses for Him.

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." - (Acts 1:8)

Fruit bearing is natural for the Spirit – Filled Christian. He (or she) is so full of God, that God begins to come out of Him, and is visible in His attitudes, actions, and in our words.

Transition

This morning, we are going to look at some practical aspects of a plan for fruit bearing. If we are going to bear fruit, our soul-winning program must have the following attributes.

I A Clear Presentation of the Gospel

Fruit bearing is the reproduction of Christians, and this can only be done when people put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are presenting the gospel (or good news) of the Lord Jesus Christ to people. We are not presenting the church, or a new lifestyle – we are presenting the hope of Heaven and eternal life through Christ.

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" - (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

If a person is going to be born-again, or saved, or converted, or become a child of God they must understand and believe the following:

- 1 They Are a Sinner
- 2 The Payment for Sin Is Death
- 3 Christ Paid the Price for Sin
- 4 The Gift of God Is Eternal Life

People must personally receive the gift of eternal life. They are not born saved. There must be a specific time and a specific place where they place their faith in the Lord Jesus.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." - (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

If you are going to bear much fruit in your life, you will have to learn how to share your faith with others. Your testimony is a good place to start.

Your testimony is the story of how God saved you. The Apostle Paul often used His testimony.

If you are perhaps too unsure of yourself to share with somebody personally, then at least you can give them a gospel tract, and invite them to church.

II Connections with People

By far the best way to reach and keep people is to connect with people you know.

Immediate Family

Extended Family

Neighbors

Co-workers

Classmates

Community Contacts (gas station, Wawa)

People that God has specifically placed in your path (divine appointments)

God has placed people within your personal sphere of influence. These are people that will not be reached by anyone else. God gives them to you. Don't miss the opportunities that God gives you.

Turn to Acts 8:1 – 4

"And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." - (Acts 8:1-4)

These individuals from the church at Jerusalem were forced out of the city because of the persecution of Saul. However, wherever they went, they took the gospel with them.

Re-emphasize – this will only be effective for soul winners that are filled with the Spirit – they are abiding (plugged in), and they are praying.

III Corporate Programs for Outreach

1 Door-to-Door evangelism (or person to person)

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house," (Acts 20:20)

In the short term, this may seem to be the least effective, but in the long-term it is the best way to get the gospel to a community.

Illustrate - Maria

2 Visitor Follow-Up

This is a good tool because the people that visit the church are already either connected to somebody within the church; or perhaps they are searching for God.

3 Bus Ministry

Illustrate – Brother and Mrs. Stahl, and Melissa Dilley were saved through the bus ministry.

4 Nursing Homes, Senior Care, etc.

5 Sunday School campaigns, Big Days, Revival Meetings, etc.

6 Advertising, mass mailing

7 Technology, websites, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, etc.

8 Worldwide Missions Program

We will use any means available in order to communicate the message of Christ, as long as those means are not sinful in themselves.

Conclusion

Just being saved is not enough. God calls us to bear fruit.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." - (Proverbs 11:30)

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." - (Mark 16:15)

I'll bet that you know somebody that needs Christ.

Why don't you begin to pray for that particular person right at the invitation time? God put somebody's face in your mind's eye right now. That's the one He wants you to pray for. That's the one that He wants you to talk to. That's the one that He wants you to be plugged in and abiding for. That's the one that He wants you to live a Christ-like life in front of.

God put that particular person in your life, across your path. Make the most of the opportunity.

Who is it?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon said:

" I think I may say to every person whom I am addressing -If you are yourself saved, the work is but half done until you are employed to bring others to Christ. You are as yet but half formed in the image of your Lord. You have not attained to the full development of the Christ-life in you unless you have commenced in some feeble way to tell others of the grace of God; and I trust that you will find no rest to the sole of your foot till you have been the means of leading many to that blessed Saviour who is your confidence and your hope.

Let us ask Him to give us grace to go a-fishing, and so to cast our nets that we may take a great multitude of fishes. Oh, that the Holy Ghost may raise up from among us some master-fishers, who shall sail their boats in many a sea, and surround great shoals of fish!"

Christian, you will be at your happiest, you will be the most fulfilled, when your life is used by the Lord to produce fruit, influencing others with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is no greater joy than leading someone to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica:

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" (1 Thessalonians 2:19)