

Sunday Morning Message

August 6, 2017 (Edited from a message originally preached on January 29, 2012)

Title – *Go Ye Into All the World*

Topic – The Project for Fruit Bearing Beyond the Local Church

Text – John 15:16a; Philippians 4:10 - 20

Congregational Reading – Philippians 4:15 - 19

Introduction

We have been preaching through a mini-series of messages on the subject of fruit-bearing.

"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 weeks:

Three weeks 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.
- 3 Week Three – “Herein Is My Father Glorified” – The Plan of Fruit Bearing in a localized setting – direct influence – bearing fruit through:

A clear presentation of the gospel

Connections with people

Corporate Programs

Also review

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 week – we will be discussing The Project for Bearing Fruit beyond the geographical parameters of our local church – fruit bearing beyond the reaches of our Jerusalem.

"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)

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

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." - (Matthew 28:18-20)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - (John 3:16)

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." - (Matthew 24:14)

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." - (Luke 24:47-49)

Our job is not finished when we are bearing fruit locally – here in Galloway, our Jerusalem. Our project for bearing fruit goes beyond our localized sphere of influence and extends to areas beyond our personal reach.

This morning we will see the gospel moving out of Jerusalem and into the rest of the world.

Interestingly, it was persecution which forced the early church to leave their comfort zones, and ultimately fulfill their commission. Note – God will often do the same thing in our lives – He may allow something very difficult to enter in, in order to get us to do what he wants us to do.

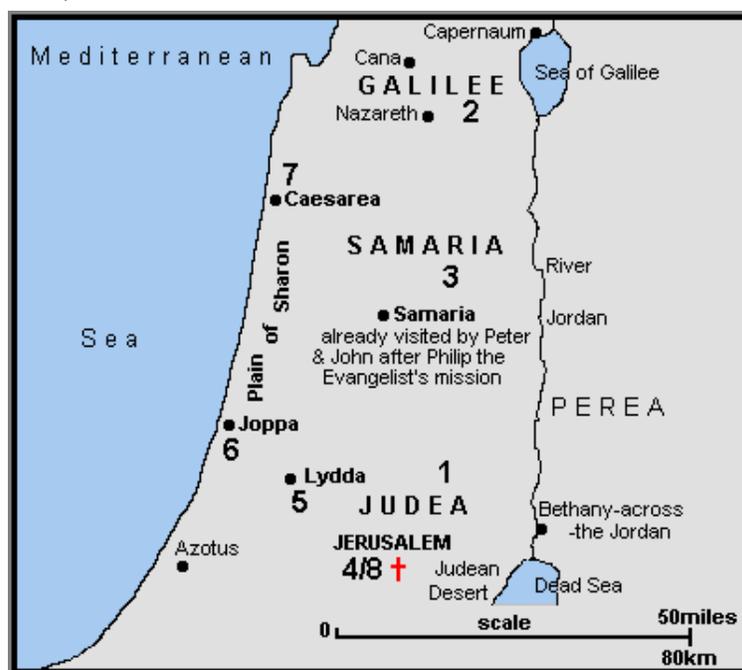
Look at Maps:



Map One – Scattered Church and Phillip (Acts 8:1 - 8)

“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.” - (Acts 8:26)

“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.” - (Acts 8:39-40)



Map Two – Peter

In the beginning of Acts 9, Saul the Persecutor gets saved on the Road to Damascus and becomes Paul the Apostle.

Read Acts 9:31 - 43

"There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band," - (Acts 10:1)



Map Three – Scattered Church; Barnabus and Saul

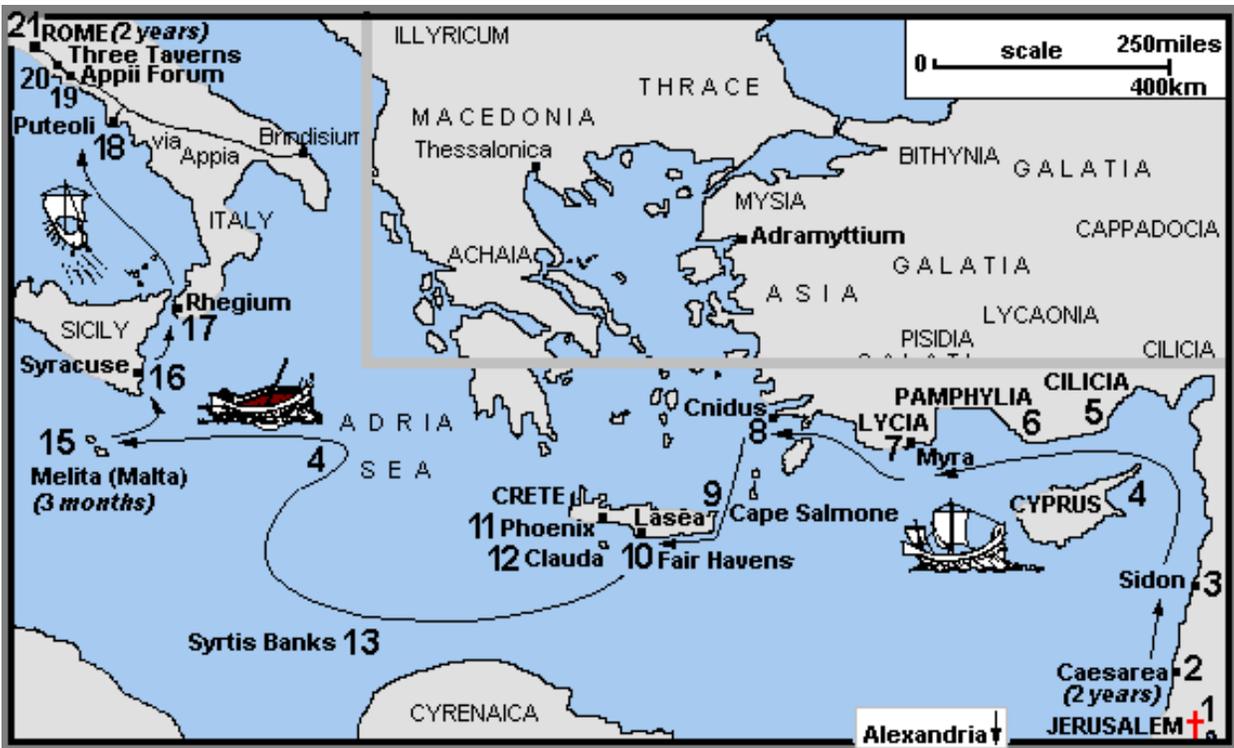
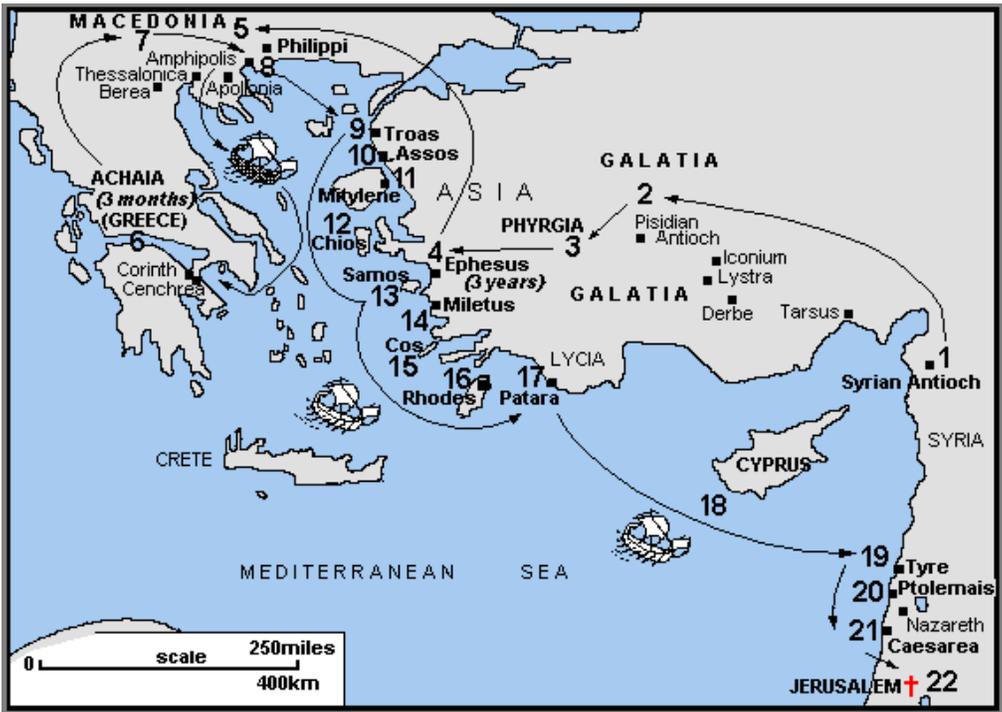
"Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." - (Acts 11:19-21)

"Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." - (Acts 11:22-26)

Maps 4 – 7 – Missionary Journeys of Paul and Barnabas; Paul and Saul

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." - (Acts 13:1-3)





So, we see that the early church was all about bearing fruit; but not just in their local area through personal soul winning and discipleship, and all of the programs of their local church. They also were responsible to reach the rest of the world through a missions' program. How do we reach people out of our Jerusalem?

I We Study

We become aware of the fact that there is a big world out there.

Illustrate – one of my first flights to Florida (paradigm shift)

A We look for places with the greatest need.

B We look for qualified people to meet that need.

II We Send

A Mission Teams into Judea and Samaria to help other local churches reach their Jerusalem.

Illustrate – Solid Rock Baptist Church came here to pass out fliers for us.

Illustrate – The church in Maine came down here to help us with the church plant in Little Egg Harbor.

Illustrate – We will go to Philadelphia to help Josh and Joanna Town pass out *John and Romans*.

B Missionaries out of our church – so far, we just have Daniel Owens; but someday, it is my dream to have dozens of men and women called out from this church to serve as missionaries all over the world.

III We Support

A Through Prayer

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" - (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." - (Colossians 4:2-4)

Illustrate – Poem by Sandra Goodwin

Last night I took a journey
To a land far 'cross the seas;
I didn't go by boat or plane,
I trusted on my knees.
I saw so many people there
In deepest depths of sin,
And Jesus told me I should go
That there were souls to win.

But I said, "Jesus, I can't go
And work with such as these."
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can
By traveling on your knees."
He said, "You pray; I'll meet the need,
You call and I will hear;
Be concerned about lost souls,
Of those both far and near."
And so I tried it, knelt in prayer,
Gave up some hours of ease;
I felt the Lord right by my side
While traveling on my knees.
As I prayed on and saw souls saved
And twisted bodies healed,
And saw God's workers' strength renewed
While laboring on the field.
I said, "Yes, Lord, I have a job
My desire Thy will to please;
I can go and heed Thy call
By traveling on my knees."

B Through Provision (text)

Two ways that we can do this:

- 1 The church can give a portion of its offering to a Missions Fund.
- 2 Faith Promise (explain – see 2 Corinthian 8:1 – 15)

Conclusion

Our commission includes the whole world – we must take on this challenge.

Illustration

Dr. E. Myers Harrison was a great servant of God and a great missionary statesman. He said that each of us as Christians must hear what God has to say:

There is the command from above: *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). Have you heard that?

I've heard people say, "But God wants our church to be different. We're not supposed to have a missionary program." I don't believe that. I believe the command from above is given to every Christian and to every assembly that God has raised up.

Then there is the cry from beneath:

Remember the rich man who died and woke up in hell and begged for someone to go and tell his brothers? (see Luke 16). "I pray thee, therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house (for I have five brethren), that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment" (vv. 27,28). There is the cry from beneath. If you and I could hear the cries of people in a lost eternity right now, we'd realize how important it is to get the Gospel out. There's the command from above. Have you heard it? There's the cry from beneath. Have you heard it?

Then, according to Dr. Harrison, there is the call from without.

Acts 16:9 says, "*Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*" People around us are saying, "Please come to help us!" So much money, time and energy is being spent on routine church matters in America when there is a whole world to reach for Christ! We face so many open doors!

W. Wiersbe, Something Happens When Churches Pray, pp.102-3.