

Sunday Morning Message

December 11, 2022 (edited from a message originally preached on February 12, 2012, and August 20, 2017)

Title – *“Ye Shall Be Witnesses”*

Topic – The Product of Fruit Bearing

Text – Acts 1:8; Acts 2: 41 - 47

Congregational Reading – Acts 2:41 - 47

Introduction

We are in our fifth message in a series studying the topic 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 last week:

Several 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.
- 4 Week Four – “Go Ye into All the World” – The **Project** for Bearing Fruit Beyond The Local Church
- 5 Week Five – “Becoming Unfruitful” – The **Problems** associated (the Enemies) with Fruit Bearing.

Today we will look at the **product** of bearing fruit. If I yield my life to the Lord, and allow Him to use me as a channel, a conduit, a pipeline of blessing and power – what will happen?

I. There Will Be Results:

"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 with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." - (Acts 2:40-47)

"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand." - (Acts 4:4)

"And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)" - (Acts 5:14)

"Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." - (Acts 5:28)

"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." - (Acts 6:7)

"Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." - (Acts 8:4)

"And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;" - (Acts 17:6)

"But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." - (Romans 10:18)

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:" - (Colossians 1:3-6)

Results Yield Rejoicing

"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)

II. There Will Be Relief (Peace)

Man is born with a God shaped vacuum in his heart that can only be satisfied with God. Many will attempt to fill that void with pleasures, possessions, power, and other things that the world offers them. However, they still find no peace. Because the only One that can give peace is God:

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" - (Romans 5:1)

When we finally surrender our stubborn will to the Lord and trust Christ as our Saviour, and fully understand our security in Him, it floods our soul with peace.

However, after we are saved, God wants us to continue to yield to Him. Our submission to Him really just begins at salvation. When we obey Him, it yields peace in our lives; but when we stubbornly resist His will, it creates a friction between Him and us. We are still His children, and He is still our Father, but there is a disharmony, a lack of peace.

Illustrate – My dad didn't speak to me for several days.

Peace can only come – Relief can only come – when we submit ourselves to the purposes of God. The greatest purpose that God has for us on this earth is to bear fruit. So, when we are yielded to the Lord, and bearing fruit through our lives, we receive a peace that the Bible says passes all understanding.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." - (John 14:27)

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." - (John 16:33)

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." -
(Romans 8:6)

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ... Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." - (Philippians 4:7, 9)

III. There Will Be Rewards

On earth – God takes care of soul winners

Illustrate – Frank Bomenblit

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." -
(Psalm 37:4)

Also – the more we bear fruit, the more we influence this world with the gospel, our world becomes a better place.

Pastor Clark – “You can either curse the darkness or light a candle”.

In Heaven – The rewards for fruit-bearing on earth follow us into Heaven.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

Revelation chapter 4 tells us about 24 elders, which are in the presence of God in Heaven, and on their heads, are crowns of gold. These crowns were rewards that were given to them on earth. The passage then tells that these elders took their crowns and cast them before the throne, saying:

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." - (Revelation 4:11)

Illustrate – “Thank You for Giving to the Lord”

I dreamed I went to heaven and you were there with me. We walked upon the streets
of gold beside the crystal sea

We heard the angels singing then someone called your name. You turned and saw this
young man and he was smiling as he came

And he said, "Friend you do not know me now" And then he said, "But wait, You used to

teach my Sunday school when I was only eight,
And every week you would say a prayer before the class would start, and one day when
you said that prayer I asked Jesus in my heart."

Chorus Thank you for giving to the Lord I am a life that was changed. Thank you for
giving to the Lord I am so glad you gave.

Then another man stood before me and said, "Remember the time, A missionary came
to your church and his pictures made you cry,

You didn't have much money, but you gave it any way,

Jesus took the gift you gave and that's why I'm here today."

One by one they came Far as the eye could see Each life somehow touched by your
generosity.

Little things that you had done Sacrifices made, Unnoticed on the earth In heaven now
proclaimed.

And I know up in heaven You're not supposed to cry But I am almost sure there were
tears in your eyes as Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord. He said, "My
child look around you, Great is your reward."

Conclusion

When we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit of God, and allow Him to flow through us to
the people around us, the product will be that there will be:

Results – people will be saved (and Results yield Rejoicing)

Relief – we will be at peace with the will of God for our lives.

Rewards – God will meet our needs now, and He will reward us in Heaven.

Concluding Illustration – from The Autobiography of Charles G Finney

A circumstance occurred in this neighborhood, which I must not fail to notice.
There was a cotton manufactory on the Oriskany creek, a little above Whitesboro, a
place now called New York Mills. It was owned by an unconverted man, but a
gentleman of high standing and good morals. My brother-in-law was at that time
superintendent of the factory. I was invited to go and preach at that place, and
went up one evening, and preached in the village schoolhouse, which was large,

and was crowded with hearers. The Word, I could see, took powerful effect among the people, especially among the young people who were at work in the factory.

The next morning, after breakfast, I went into the factory, to look through it. As I went through, I observed there was a good deal of agitation among those who were busy at their looms, and their mules, and other implements of work. On passing through one of the apartments, where a great number of young women were attending to their weaving, I observed a couple of them eyeing me, and speaking very earnestly to each other; and I could see that they were a good deal agitated, although they both laughed. I went slowly toward them. They saw me coming, and were evidently much excited. One of them was trying to mend a broken thread, and I observed that her hands trembled so that she could not mend it. I approached slowly, looking on each side at the machinery, as I passed; but observed that this girl grew more and more agitated, and could not proceed with her work. When I came within eight or ten feet of her, I looked solemnly at her. She observed it, and was quite overcome, and sunk down, and burst into tears. The impression caught almost like powder, and in a few moments nearly all in the room were in tears. This feeling spread through the factory. Mr. W, the owner of the establishment, was present, and seeing the state of things, he said to the superintendent, "Stop the mill, and let the people attend to religion; for it is more important that our souls should be saved than that this factory run." The gate was immediately shut down, and the factory stopped; but where should we assemble? The superintendent suggested that the mule room was large; and, the mules being run up, we could assemble there. We did so, and a more powerful meeting I scarcely ever attended. It went on with great power. The building was large, and had many people in it, from the garret to the cellar. The revival went through the mill with astonishing power, and in the course of a few days nearly all in the mill were hopefully converted. [Finney, Charles G. (2010-03-30). Autobiography of Charles G. Finney (Kindle Locations 2974-2979).]