

Bearing Fruit in a Hostile World

The Gospel of The Kingdom - Week 11 (5-18-22)

John 15:1-8

I. Work of The Holy Spirit (Water/Sap)

- A. John 16:7 "...it is expedient for you..." = be better for, bring together, be good, profit
- B. The supply of the Holy Spirit was just as much a part of God's plan as the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- C. Our battle truly is spiritual so we need a life-giving spirit to empower and embolden us to stand against the principalities, and powers, and rulers of darkness!
- D. John 14:15-21
 - 1. Comforter = Paraclete - Intercessor, consoler: Advocate, Comforter
 - a) advocate = One who supports or promotes the interests of a cause or group
- E. Teacher and Guide - John 14:26 & 16:13
 - 1. 1 Corin. 2:16 - We are unified with God through the Holy Spirit.
- F. Encouragement and Confirmation - Romans 8:15-18
 - 1. The Holy Spirit bears witness with us and reminds us of who we are and what we have been given.
 - a) 1 Corin. 2:12 "...that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."
- G. Helps us to pray as we ought. - Romans 8:26
 - 1. John 14:13 - "and whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do..."
 - 2. John 15:7 - "...ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."
 - 3. John 15:16 - "...that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."
 - 4. John 16:23-24 - "...whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you...ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full"
- H. Helps us to effectively spread the Gospel!
 - 1. Acts 4:31 and Acts Chapter 2
- I. The Fruit of The Holy Spirit
 - 1. The evidence that you are allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life.
 - 2. Sow to the Spirit! - Galatians 6:7-10

II. Work of The Word (Seed)

- A. Duet. 8:3 "...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live."
- B. As long as the seed is given the right opportunities and environment, it already has everything it will ever need in order to produce fruit packed inside of it.
 - 1. there is no "dud seed" that comes from God. His word is perfect seed.
 - 2. Isaiah 55:10-11
 - a) Take note that earlier in this chapter the reader is given the option whether to even receive the word of God or not!

- b) The Word of God ALWAYS works... when given the right conditions.
 - (1) The words of Jesus were not always received well, tho they were perfect and absolute truth.
 - (2) John 12:48
 - 3. God sends His word, and its our job to take care of it and protect it in this harsh environment.
 - C. God's Word cleanses us and sets us apart from the filth of the world.
 - 1. John 17:16-22
 - a) We believe on Him through the word of those who have gone before us.
 - D. Faith comes by hearing - Romans 10:17
 - 1. "Trust comes by knowing the One doing the talking." - DL
 - 2. "Without faith it is impossible to please God..." Hebrews 11:6
 - a) If we never allow the Word of God to penetrate our hearts, then faith won't be there and God will not be pleased.
 - E. Our Sword
 - 1. Eph. 6:17
 - 2. Hebrews 4:11-13
 - a) quick = alive, living
 - b) powerfull = Energies - Effectual, active
- III. Discipline (Labor)
 - A. 2 Timothy 2:3 - "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
 - B. We need to grow!
 - 1. DL - "If God had shown me what it was gonna cost at the beginning, I would have never paid it."
 - a) "Don't use your pain as a crutch or as an excuse for weak character."
 - C. He is calling us to live and walk in greater truth and light.
 - D. Spiritual Discipline and development is all about eliminating the things that are hindering the life of God from flowing out of us, and not allowing the external circumstances to block that flow.
 - 1. God is calling us to move beyond our own abilities so that He can make Himself strong and big in us.
 - a) God can use the opposition that we face in this world to grow us.
 - (1) 2 Corin. 4:16-18
 - (a) these temporary and "light" afflictions work in us an eternal glory!
 - i) Fruit that remains - John 15:16
 - (b) We aren't ignoring the problems that we face, but we set our focus on eternal things rather than temporary challenges.
 - (c) The Hope that is set before us!

Ultimate fruit bearing - "For all things are for your sakes..." - 2 Corin. 4:15