

God's Trees
Sunday January 16, 2022
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Mark 8:22-26

22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

24 And he looked up, and said, **I see men as trees, walking.**

25 After that he put *his* hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

26 And he sent him away to his house, saying, **Neither go into the town, nor tell *it* to any in the town.**

We have often commented on how amazing and effective are the illustrations given to us in the Bible.

One of the most impressive metaphors that teach us in earthly terms how that God sees us is this one of trees; specifically, trees walking.

As this blind man is being healed by Jesus, he at first sees men as “trees walking”.

How strange for his partial vision to be described this way.

Yet, a number of places in Scripture tell us that this also describes those who know the Lord; God calls them “the righteous”.

Our text today is:

Psalm 1:1-6

1 Blessed *is* the man that **walketh** not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And **he shall be like a tree** planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the **righteous**: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

In and of ourselves, the Bible says there is none righteous, no not one! Yet, the righteous are referred to over 225 times in the scriptures.

These righteous are those who have been given God's own righteousness as a free gift; either by their faith in the Messiah to come or, as in our case, the Messiah, Jesus, Who has come and died for our sins.

Psalm 1:3 Says of the righteous that...**he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**

Psalm 92:12-14

12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Those that be **planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish** in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

If you are born again, you are now one of God's trees.

As such, God's instruction clearly is that you are to be planted in the house of God.

We are going to be planting two new trees here in the house of God this very day.

Being planted in the congregation of the Lord, you will be exposed regularly to the water of the Word of God and stand constantly in His light.

You are meant to be feasting on the nourishment that comes from the Word; you will come to love God's Word and yearn to hear more and more of it.

God's trees are meant to be planted in God's house always, even until old age, and even then will continue to bear fruit and prosper.

When we think of prosperity, most think first of financial prosperity; and prosperity certainly includes money.

Yet as important as finances are to each of us, prosperity covers much, much more than just money and possessions; this term covers all good things.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

We know that life has its seasons; we know that we all have an appointment with death; we know Christian life contains both blessing and suffering.

Yet you can believe this morning that God desires your prosperity in all His areas of blessing.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

If you are saved this morning, your spirit doth already prosper; your soul has arrived, you indeed have it made!

God's desire for you is just like John's wish for his beloved in Christ.

Today, I believe God wants us to understand what it is supposed to be like, what is actually normal for one of God's trees.

Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

I. God's trees are meant for a life of flourishing prosperity, but it does not come quickly.

A. It takes time to get from being planted to flourishing prosperity.

1. There is much to learn and much of it cannot be learned quickly.

2. **Romans 5:1-4**

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

3. Patience is waiting; it is enduring.

4. Experience cannot come any other way.

5. Dealing with the troubles of life according to God's plan, patiently waiting for the outcome and the experience of seeing God handle the problems according to His promises...this does not take place quickly.

6. The enduring of all this produces hope.

7. This term "hope" is 'a confident expectation' in God doing what He promises He will do.

8. This confidence comes only through patience, but it is worth the wait:

1 John 3:18-22

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.
19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.
20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.
22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

B. There is much to learn; it takes time.

1. You must discover your purpose and give yourself to it.
2. You must learn to see yourself as a servant because whether a good one or a bad one; that's what we all are.
3. We must learn the principles of stewardship.
4. We are not owners; we are managers of what belongs to God.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.
2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

5. Stewardship is properly handling what God has placed in your care, whatever that is.
6. Men will spend years in college and universities and thousands of dollars for a degree that will allow them to prosper; yet true prosperity can be gained only through the principles contained in God's Word!
7. Yes, get that degree; but do not neglect the education that matters.

B. Do not be discouraged; life is in the journey.

1. Most of us are somewhere in the middle of this process.
2. Trouble comes: it's emotional, it's financial, it's things breaking, it's physical health; it's trying to pay the bills, it's the will of others being forced upon us, it's always something.
3. You try this, you try that...you make lots of wrong choices; sometimes you get it right...then you grow a little bit, then you get a little wiser.
4. God's promises of prosperity are real but real prosperity does not come quickly.
5. But to the righteous who both learn and obey, prosperity does come.

C. When financial prosperity finally comes, it's great; but that part is not what will mean the most.

1. Today, I want for nothing. I live in a beautiful house, I drive a nice vehicle, I wear nice clothes; our pantry is always full; I get to win people to Jesus for a living.
2. Just the other day I heard my beloved say, "We really have a nice life!"
3. What are the memories I cherish the most?
4. Was it finally getting all the cool stuff?
5. Certainly all of God's blessings are great.
6. But the greatest moments of my life have been at my lowest points, seeing God step in and do what only God can do.

Next:

II. We discover that fruit comes in its season.

Psalm 1:3...that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;

A. What is this fruit?

1. The fruit is the purpose of the tree.
2. A tree has value only for fuel or lumber or beauty or fruit.
3. What kind of trees are we? We are fruit trees.
4. **John 15:16** *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: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
5. Whatever the tree produces is its fruit.

B. Remember, fruit comes in its season...

1. Seasons change.
2. **Ecclesiastes 3:1** *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*
3. The verse says "his fruit" and "his season".

C. There are many kinds of fruit.

1. New believers getting saved is the fruit that remains.

2. The Fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

3. Your paycheck is the fruit of your labor.

4. Your friends, your kids, those who love you are the fruit of your love.

C. To see the fruit, the tree must stay planted.

1. **Galatians 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

2. Look to the Lord, not at each other.

3. No two trees grow or produce fruit alike or at the same rate.

4. Not all trees stay planted; some are uprooted by storms or in the case of many Christians, just bad choices.

5. Not all trees will bring forth their fruit.

6. But for those that do God says,

III. His leaf shall not wither.

A. Here's the science.

1. Structures within a leaf convert the energy in sunlight into chemical energy that the plant can use as food. Chlorophyll is the molecule in leaves that uses the energy in sunlight to turn water (H₂O) and carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) into sugar and oxygen (O₂). This process is called **photosynthesis**.

2. In normal trees, they bud, the leaves grow to fullness, they do their job of nourishing the tree by converting the light energy to sugar and oxygen, then they wither and die.

3. Then you rake the yard.

4. And then in their next growing season, after lying dormant for a while, they do it again.

B. God has built in a mechanism into the believer like this as well.

1. He has put something in us that enables us to convert the light of God's Word into that which sustains and nourishes us.

2. What the leaf does for the tree, the power of God's Word does for the believer.

3. Only for us, as long as we stay planted and nourished in God's Word, our leaf does not wither!

And when his leaf does not wither...

IV. Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

"...and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

A. "Whatsoever".

1. This term speaks of choices.

2. Although God knows what your life will be, God does not have a specific "one and only one" plan for your life.

3. There are hundreds of great things you can do with your life, and you get to choose.

4. It is by our choices that we glorify God.

5. God tells us in Psalm 37 that He wants to give us the desires of our heart.

6. Choose something wonderful and get after it.

B. "Doeth".

1. This speaks to the fact that you actually need to do something.

2. **Ecclesiastes 9:10** *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; ...*

3. **Ecclesiastes 5:18-19**

18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

4. Go do something; if it doesn't work out, then do something else but don't just sit around wringing your hands waiting on God to do it for you.

5. **2 Corinthians 6:1** We then, *as workers together with him*, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

6. "Co-laborer" means that God wants to work with you, not do it for you.

Next is the incredible promise...

C. *"Shall prosper"*.

1. Remember Elisha and the widow woman in II Kings 4?

2. She said, 'all we have is this one pot of oil'.

3. Elisha said 'go borrow vessels, not a few'.

4. She could have thought, 'OK a few is maybe two or three, so I'll borrow six'.

5. Oh, no. It doesn't say, but I believe she borrowed every empty vessel in that town.

6. You have the same kind of promise from God that she had; read it: **"and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."**

7. Folks, I believe we ought to dream big...as long as it's good, honest and right, God is going to bless it; so go for lots of vessels!

8. We already know that for the righteous, God wants to give you the desire of your heart.

Conclusion:

God has an incredible journey for every one of His children.

He also has the good news of prosperity for every one of His children.

We did not spend time on the first three verses of our text today:

Psalm 1:1-6

1 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

These are areas that inhibit the growth of God's trees. Failure in these will force God to withhold the prosperity that is already yours, just like you parents must withhold things from your children they are not yet ready for.

My desire, and I know also the desire of the Lord, is exactly the same as the Apostle John expressed in

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Fall in love with God's Word; start learning the rules and the principles and go out there and do something that will bring great glory to the one that died for you!

Prosperity of every kind has one grand purpose...it is to be used to bring God glory.