

Where's The Fruit – 09/4/22

TEXT – Matthew 7:15-20 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

INTRO – From this text Dr. Dolphus Price preached a sermon that led me to respond and be saved. It deals with false prophets but it can be applied to false professors of Christianity.

The fruit of a false prophet reveals his true nature.

- **You can identify a false prophet – He speaks false prophecy –**

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

- **He also contradicts the plain Word of God -**

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

I. A Seed Is Sown

A seed has been sown in our preparation and during our revival meetings.

When a seed is sown, what happens to it?

In the kingdom parable of the Sower it explains four things can happen to the seed.

The way side – The fowls came and took them – The devil

The stony places – They sprung up but withered away – The flesh

Some among the thorns – They were choked up – The world

Good ground – Brought forth fruit – 100X 60X 30X

Christ was tempted with these three temptations:

Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

- the world: to tempt God by casting himself off the pinnacle;
- the flesh: to turn stones into bread; and
- the devil: to worship Satan.

Ephesians 2:2-3 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others*

Three of the seven parables refer to the seed.

The soils – Wrong heart

The tares - Satan

The mustard seed - Compromise

There is a seed planted from your family

There is a seed planted from your church

There is a seed planted from your Christian school

There is a seed planted from Sunday School

There is a seed planted from camp

There is a seed planted from VBS

There is a seed planted from the mission's conference

There is a seed planted from the revival meeting

What happens to that seed?

II. The responsibility Given

There has been a seed sown from the revival meeting that can germinate and grow into good fruit.

John 12:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

Without death there can be no germination and no new fruit!

A. Everyone has a responsibility to produce fruit according to their calling and ability.

Matthew 25:14-30 *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one;

B. We must be faithful over the few things

Life is filled with a bunch of little things!

Lewis notes that the principle goes both ways. Minor obedience leads to something beautiful, but "small" compromises give place to our spiritual

enemy, the devil.

Luke 12:48 *But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

We may easily be too big for God, but never too small – D. L. Moody

“Moses spent forty years thinking he was somebody; forty years learning he was nobody; and forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody.”

C. We should multiply our fruit

1. We will be judged by our fruits

John 15:6-8 *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

2. Man can only see our works not our faith

James 2:14-18 *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

3. Bearing fruit is a natural process of a Christian

Galatians 5:22-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

Our accomplishments may seem small but if we exemplify the fruit of the Spirit we will accomplish the will of God and be the most effective believer possible

“The measure of a man’s success is determined by the extent of God’s control in his life.”

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