

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

December 4, 2022

The Mission of the Church - Lesson 11 Bearing Fruit: Sowing Seed for the Kingdom

At the beginning of our current series on *The Mission of the Church* we mapped out four topics that outlined God's expectations of His church in scripture. We have looked at **Worship** and **Edification** and now turn our attention toward the last two categories, **Benevolence** and **Evangelism**. Before we begin looking at the details of these, let's start with a reminder of what scripture has to say about sowing seed and bearing fruit.

Bearing Fruit - One thing Jesus made clear in His ministry is that He expected His followers to bear fruit. There is no concept in scripture of a fruitless disciple. Consider His teaching about the "healthy tree" and "diseased tree" in the sermon on the mount (**Mt 7:15-20**) where He says, "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Or think about the parable of the sower (**Mt 19:1-9, 18-23**), where Jesus describes the one who receives the word and understands it by saying, "He indeed bears fruit..." This same idea is also presented in the parable of the talents (**Mt 25:14-30**). In this story Jesus is clearly showing that part of being ready for the master coming back is producing a return on the investment He has made with us.

Both **Benevolence** and **Evangelism** are ways in which a disciple of Christ, and the church, can bear fruit. However, in order to bear fruit, we must first be active in sowing seed for the Kingdom.

Sowing Seed - All of us have seed that God has entrusted us with (**2 Cor 9:10; Eph 2:10**), and the remainder of this lesson will focus on what these types of seed are and how we use them to bear fruit.

T_____ - The older I get, the more I realize that time is the most valuable gift God has given me. Consequently, where I spend my time shows where my priority is in life. Jesus spoke about our priorities in the sermon on the mount when he talked about treasure (**Mt 6:19-21**) and seeking God's kingdom first (**Mt 6:33**). We cannot expect to bear fruit if we do not first give God our time. Let's use this reminder as an opportunity to examine our individual lives and what our usage of time says about our priorities. Are we sowing seed with our time?



"Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord! For He has delivered the life of the poor from the hands of evildoers."

We rejoice that **Chelsea Roaden** was baptized into Christ on Wednesday, November 30. Please welcome her into our church family!

*Love finds me falling
Into its graced soul
Tendered with prayers
That invoke God's extol
Turning my face
To the beauty of Thee
I am washed, filled within,
With soul of devotee*

T_____ - In the parable of the talents (**Mt 25:14-30**), each of the three servants were entrusted with different amounts “according to his ability.” While “talent” in this parable is a unit of weight/money, this same concept is amplified by Paul in **1 Cor 12** and **Rom 12:3-8**, regarding different gifts or abilities (i.e., talents). In **Rom 12**, Paul is specifically emphasizing that whatever abilities God has given to us, He expects us to use them in His service. Are we sowing seed with our talents?

T_____ - When Jesus discussed “treasure” in the sermon on the mount, He was talking about more than just money. However, just like our time, the use of our money is something that clearly shows where our priorities lie (**2 Cor 8:5**). From the pattern of the early church we see that God expects us (individually and as a church) to use our money in sowing seed for the Kingdom. Among these examples we see Paul’s great project to raise funds for poor Christians in Jerusalem who had been affected by a famine (**Rom 15:25-27; 1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8 & 9**). Consider the following principles related to giving:

- Everything belongs to God (**Dt 10:12-14; Ps 24:1-2; 89:11; Mt 25:1**)
- Giving should be a habit (**1 Cor 16:2**)
- Giving should be done “as he may prosper” (**1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 8:3**)
- Giving should be done willingly (**2 Cor 8:3-4; 9:7**)
- Giving should be joyful (**Rom 15:26-27; 2 Cor 8:2; 9:7**)
- Giving should be sacrificial or generous (**Mk 12:41-44; 2 Cor 8:3-5; 9:11; 1 Tim 6:17-19; Heb 13:16**)

Are we sowing seed with our treasure?

In writing to the Corinthian church about his project for Jerusalem, he reminds them of the principle of sowing and reaping (**2 Cor 9:6-15**). Paul points out that if we sow seed, not only will we bear fruit (“harvest of righteousness”), but God will continue to supply us with more seed so we can be “generous in every way”! Paul reminds the Galatians (**Gal 6:6-10**) that whatever seed we sow, that is the type of fruit we will bear (either for the Spirit or the flesh). What type of seed are we sowing?

PRAYER LIST

- **Burt Wilkerson** is recuperating at home, and **Peggy** is in a rehab facility
- **Catherine Pennington** will have hernia surgery
- **Camille Brosky**, a family friend of the Agees, is recovering from a stroke
- **Judy Cook** is now recuperating at home
- **Mike Smith** will not need open heart surgery
- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington** has cancer.
- **Donna Rawls Head** is in hospice care
- Continue to pray for: those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller**, **Kristine Garrett**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, **Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (December 4, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Gupton
Prayer: M. Reed

WORSHIP

Read: J. Baker
Wait On Table: C. Baker
Serve: J. Walker, D. Demonbreun
Prayer: D. Billingsley