

**A Study of the Parables of our Lord; Session # 13 – “Differences in Fruit Bearing”,  
presented by Pastor Paul Rendall, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022,  
in the Adult Sunday School Class.**

**Matthew 13: 22 & 23** – “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.” “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

**Luke 8: 14 & 15** – “Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.” “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

**Luke 8: 16-18** – “No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.” “For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.” “Therefore take heed how you hear.” “For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”

Since these words come immediately after the explanation of the Parable of the Sower by our Lord, they do have a bearing on how much fruit we will bear for God. Our responsibility to light to lamp and put it on the lampstand. That is, to make public profession of Christ and then to learn to listen carefully to the word of God preached so that we might grow by it. Then when we act upon what we learn, and obey the commandments of our Lord, and are engaged in doing good works, we will bear fruit to God. So the injunction given here by our Lord is very important – Take heed how you hear. If you hear with spiritual understanding brought to you by the Holy Spirit in connection with the New Heart that God has given you in the New Birth, then you will bear fruit.

**How do we account for the fact that some Christians will bear only 30 fold fruit and others will bear 60 or 100 fold?**

It can be accounted for by the fact that God places Christians in widely different settings, some more conducive to fruit-bearing than others. And it can be accounted for by God’s Providential ordering and placement of each Christian. It can be accounted for abiding in Him, and learning to keep His commands. And also by how closely each Christian follows their Lord in terms of the use of their spiritual gift. So we can think of the differences in fruit bearing coming from God’s Providence, abiding in Christ, and being faithful to use the gift that you have been given. These three things. Let’s look at them in that order.

**1<sup>st</sup> – Differences in fruit bearing because of God’s Providence**

It is God’s Providence which orders all things after the counsel of His own will. God’s Providence orders the grace and the gift that you will have as a Christian, and the opportunities that you will have to use your grace and gift. And so, this does affect in certain ways, how much fruit as a Christian you will bear. There are certain things which He has ordered which will most certainly come to pass.

His choice in this regard, shows that He is sovereign over the life of every Christian in terms of what He chooses to give to them; what He Providentially orders for their particular life. Each and every Christian will have many opportunities to bear fruit to God in the particular sphere of life in which God has placed them.

**But you have a responsibility to respond to God's call upon your life**, and to work with Him in regard to the things that He will lead you into, in relation to Christ's church and people around you, every day so that you will bear fruit to Him.

### **The Example of the Apostle Paul**

**Acts 9: 19** – “Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’” “And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’” “So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.’” “And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.” “Then Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.’” “And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.’” “For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.” “And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’” “Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.” So when he had received food, he was strengthened.” “Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.”

Here we have the newly converted Saul, the man who would become the apostle Paul, a man who would bear much fruit to God. He is called here, by Lord Himself – “A chosen vessel, or instrument, of Mine”. And what was God's Providential Ordering and Will concerning Saul? It was to save him in this dramatic way that He did, on the road to Damascus. But notice that the Lord also goes on to say that He has called him for a specific purpose; that he would bear His name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. A very specific call with a very specific purpose. Saul would bear much fruit in this, because he was being placed by God in the position to do so.

Furthermore, God's purpose extends to the details of what Paul would suffer in relation to fulfilling his ministry and the missions that the Lord would send Him on. It was that He, the Lord, would show Him how many things, or how much, he would suffer, for His name's sake. Now all of this was done in a revelatory way, God giving direct revelation to Ananias to confirm these things to him, and to the church also. None of this was said or done arbitrarily, but all was done according to the prearranged plans of the Triune God.

Even though it was revelatory, it gives us to understand that God does the very same thing in relation to our calling. We are not called to be apostles. “Are all called to be apostles?”, it says in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12: 29. No, but God has appointed some to be so. Even so, He has appointed what

place you will have in relation to Christ's church and the things which you will have opportunity to do for him. **There will be accountability in this.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 9 and 10** – “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.” “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> – How closely each Christian follows their Lord, abiding in Him, and learning to keep His commands.**

**John 15: 7 -10** – “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.”

So, what does it mean to abide in Christ? It means to abide, or to remain, in Him; in all that He has done for you, out of love for you. And it means that each Christian who truly loves Christ will abide in His words; that is all of the Bible, and the sound doctrine that is in the Bible. As all prophecy which was written down came from and through Christ Himself, it is all to be received. We abide in the truth of all that the Bible teaches us because it came from Him originally, both Old Testament and New.

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 10 and 11** – “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”

So, if we abide in Him and in His word, we can ask in prayer what we desire; that is, those things which are according to His will, and they will be done for us. The words in verse 7 – “for you”, can be translated “to you”, or “unto you”, or as it is in the King James – “it shall be done unto you”. That is, when you learn to pray and ask God to be able to do these things which are according to His will, then God will grant them you, according to His mighty grace. And in this good way, He will be changing and transforming you to become the person that He would have you to be. You will more and more be conformed to Christ's image, and more and more learn to do the will of God. You will strive to keep all of His commandments from right motives, by this means.