

# Trees that Produce Fruit

- *And the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after their kind: and God saw that it was good. Gen. 1:12*
- A great and amazing gift:
- Cherry, peach, apple, mango, orange, etc.
- Once we purchase that tree we have those fruits.
- *For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by its own fruit. Lk. 6:43-44*
- Yet Jesus is giving this parable to reveal spiritual truth ... We need to look deeper and discern.

# A Spiritual Reality

- This part of the parable is fixed.
- Yet God offers a stern warning
- In spite of God's power and intent
- Unlike trees, we can change the fruit we produce.
- Jesus speaks of present reality only!
- *Let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. ... He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. Isa 5:1-2*

# Man's Decisions Can change his Fruit

- God did His part ...
- *What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help Isa. 5:4. 7*
- *For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned. Heb 6:7-8*

# John's Message

- *Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Mt. 3:8-11*

# When we hear fruit of ...

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- Whatever word comes next is the essence of the tree and the fruit.
- *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Gal 6:7-9*
- Each of us can look at the fruit of our lives and know what we have sown.

# Jesus was very Clear

- *Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit... 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” Mt. 7:16-20*
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# Parallel to the Well Beloved's Vineyard

- *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ... 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ... 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. Jn 15:-8*
- *...He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. Isa 5:1-2*

# The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- Just as God created a tree to bear after its kind, the Holy Spirit created Scripture to produce after his kind.
- Just as we can identify any tree during harvest by its fruit, we can identify the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives by this fruit.
- *The seed is the word of God* Lk. 8:11
- The author of the Word of God is the Holy Spirit. 1o



# Born Again of Water and Spirit -- Seed

- *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ... 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:3-7*
- *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 1 Peter 1:22-24*

# The Fruit of... the Spirit

- This is a simple and fundamental truth.
- *“**The Fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law”* (Gal. 5:22-23).
- If we are truly sowing to the Spirit we will see these fruits. If we don't see them ...
- The more of fruit we produce the more clearly we reveal that the Holy Spirit is the primary force in our lives.

# The Fruit of the Spirit

- The richer the harvest, the greater the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- Trees can only bear after their kind!!!
- If we are sowing to the Spirit, these are the fruits. We can't hide it or deny it.
- If we are seeing growth:
- *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control*
- We sow to the Spirit and reap these fruits.

# The Seed is the Word of God

- *“The seed is the word of God” (Lk 8:11).*
- *With that seed each of us was “born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1Pet. 1:23).*
- *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21*

# The Seed is the Word of God

- Once that seed enters the heart, like the fruit tree it becomes the “manufacturing plant” to produce the “fruit of the Spirit”
- *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit** Rom 8:1*

# The Seed is the Word of God

- *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** Rom 8:12-13*
- *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Rom 8:14-15*
- Even though it is “just a book,” the Holy Spirit’s power of the seed is working and we are led by the Spirit.

# What Fruit are We Producing?

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- God planted a choice vine
- He comes expecting fruit.
- If the Holy Spirit is influencing us through the seed which is the word of God
- We will know by our fruits.
- *What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. Rom 6:21-22*
- *But the fruit of the spirit is...*