

★ That Ye Bear Much Fruit ★

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 7

The Expectation of Christ

Have you ever been to an orchard? There are many trees there. Usually, the trees have a lot of fruit on them. They have apples, peaches, pears, plums, and cherries. Can you think of some other fruit that grows on trees? It is a lot of fun to pick fruit from trees. All trees are pretty, but trees with fruit on them are especially pretty.

In this lesson, God teaches us a lesson using a fruit tree. This fruit is called a fig. Do you know what a fig is? A fig is shaped like a tear drop. It grows on trees. Figs are very sweet. The Bible says a lot about figs.

In this story, Jesus and His disciples were walking by a fig tree; they noticed there was no fruit on the tree. Jesus was very hungry. Jesus told the tree that it would never have fruit again, and the tree withered away!

Jesus was teaching His disciples some lessons from the fig tree. We can learn these lessons too!

God's Law for Fruit Trees: Good trees produce good fruit.

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

—Luke 6:43-44

The first thing Jesus wanted to teach the disciples was that good trees should have good fruit. He said that just like a bad tree would not have good fruit, a good tree should not have bad fruit. What does this mean to us? The Bible calls our good works “fruit.” (Philippians 4:17) When you go soul winning and someone gets saved, that is “fruit.” If we are “planted” in Jesus, we should have good fruit! An example of bad fruit would be doing things we are not supposed to do. The Bible says in Matthew 7:20, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” That means if you have bad fruit, people will probably not think of you as a Christian. We want everyone to know we are Christians! So, we need to have good fruit!

What God Expects from His Trees: Fruit

Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

—Proverbs 27:18

In Proverbs, God tells us that He expects a tree to have fruit so that the master of the tree will be pleased. The Bible says in John 15:5: “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in

me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” God expects us to produce fruit for Him. It makes God happy! We should live to please God!

I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

—Jeremiah 8:13

This passage tells us how God feels when we do not have fruit. It makes God angry. When Jesus saw that the fig tree had no fruit, He told the tree it would never have fruit again. Then the tree withered away and died.

God is very wise. He knows us better than anyone else. God takes care of us like a farmer would take care of his tree. To help a tree bear a lot of fruit, the gardener has to cut and trim some branches. This makes it bear more fruit than it would have without being trimmed! The Bible says that when we bear fruit, God may have to “cut” away some things so we can bear more fruit! God does this because He loves us and knows what is best for us.

How to be a Fruitful Tree: Abiding in Christ

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

—John 15:4

What will happen to a plant if it does not have water? What if it never got to be in the sun? It would probably die. God says that we can be a fruitful tree if we abide in Him. Abide means “dwell.” We can abide in Jesus by reading our Bible and praying every day. We can also “abide” in Jesus by going to church every week. If we do not spend time with Jesus, we will not be able to have fruit—just like a tree without sun and water will not be able to bear fruit.

Conclusion

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

—John 15:8

Jesus talked a lot about figs in the Gospels, and figs are mentioned other places in the Bible too. We should be “sweet” Christians just like figs are “sweet” fruits. If we have asked Jesus to be our Savior, we are good trees. Good trees should bear good fruit. If we have good fruit, other people will know that we are Christians; and they will want to be Christians too!

We can only have good fruit if we abide in Christ. However, remember that a tree does not bear fruit in just one day. The tree needs to grow and be watered in order to bear fruit. Each day, we need to spend time with Jesus so that we can grow as Christians and bear good fruit. When we have good fruit, Jesus is pleased with us—and our goal as Christians should be to please our Savior.