

CHIEF MINISTRIES

September 2020

Matthew 7:20 gives us a very important analogy about discernment. Jesus said, “*You will know them by their fruits.*” Whether good or evil, the fruit exhibited in someone’s life should show you a glimpse into the health of the person’s soul. I believe as we see His kingdom approaching, we’re going to be surprised at the separation that is coming between the professors of faith and the actual possessors. Perhaps many of you have been noticing, even more so as of lately, all the people calling themselves believers, yet they never bow their head in prayer, they never open their Bibles. They may carry them everywhere, but how are they living? Still filth is flying from their lips, addiction to pornography, still stealing from one another or the chow hall, etc., etc.

With every tree there is good and bad fruit. For example, when someone is drinking all the time and can’t seem to stop, well...you know they have a problem. They are bound by alcohol. It has a hold on them. It can devastate their health, family, work and many aspects of their lives. While it is easy to label people as “drunks”, what we actually see is the bad fruit on the branches of their lives, which is the byproduct of a broken person that Satan has lied to, seduced, and bound. We’ve all been there. Where are you now?

Sometimes the fruit of a person’s life is so deceptive that you can’t see the wolf in sheep’s clothing. This may sound discouraging but is actually meant to encourage you. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you will learn to discern when someone has an inner battle raging, and perhaps you can be used to bring that person to freedom. Trust me, you’ll know when someone is crying out for help and when they’re just wasting your time keeping you from what God is really doing.

One of the greatest battles we face is our own doubt. It holds us back. Once we break through that barrier ourselves, we can help lead others to freedom. Statistics say that 89% of people are not happy with their lives. Are you happy? What holds you back from your full potential? If I were to guess, I would say it is the opinions of others about you and your opinion of yourself. These are situations you need to deal with. Let me tell you this: once you do, your life is never the same.

Matthew 13:1-23 is the parable of the sower, the seed and the ground. Seeds fell along the path, the rocky ground, the thorns, and good soil. It is very important that we are wise stewards over our souls and are pliable when the Lord is looking to plant truth into our hearts. It is equally important that we guard our hearts and minds from outside factors that would try to snatch those seeds of truth and replace them with lies, discouragement, and doubt.

Psalms 1 speaks about how our roots need to be deeply planted in the Lord, the Word, and in our relationship to our family. When the waters of life’s troubles arise, if our roots are not deeply planted in God, the things that have grown will wither and could eventually die. Guard your heart and protect those roots; “*He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper*” (Psalm 1:3).

Do you wake up believing God has given you another great day? I know that’s tough sometimes especially due to our surroundings, but we have to choose to believe and to place God first. Around 2500 times a day our minds are bombarded with troublesome thoughts. Granted, I understand we’ve gone through horrific trials, death of a loved one, another set off, or when our kids are in trouble, these weigh heavily on our minds. You’ve got to learn to fight off the negativity, the futility. We have the opportunity to speak life or death into each situation, as the power of our tongues truly speaks volumes. We do not have to go by what we see, feel, or hear – we can choose to live by the Living Word of God.

In your quiet times (during these covid times, you should have plenty of those) you should be offering the Father several things that will help you align your day with His heart and with what is best for you. Offer Him, and speak over your life:

PRAISE AND WORSHIP (to glorify). Offer Him thankfulness for who He is to you through prayer and songs. My spirit always has a song, I make up stuff all the time and no you don’t have to be a pro to do so. “*I will worship toward Your*

holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name” (Psalm 138:2). Challenge: Listen to Christian music ONLY for 30 days and appraise your attitude then.

MY HEART AND PLANS (to partner). The Lord knows our hearts, but still wants to be invited into the conversation. *”My heart rejoices in the Lord, my horn is exalted in the Lord. I smite at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation” (1 Samuel 2:1). Challenge: Meditate at least 10 minutes at first on what vision God is giving you about your future. How BIG is your God?*

MY FILTHY RAGS, AND “PUT ON” JESUS (to renew). I remove what separates me from Him and robe myself in Him, making me more like Him. *”Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). ”But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth” (Colossians 3:8). We have to take off the past, the old man. “Therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering.” (Colossians 3:12). Challenge: Make it a practice to ask the Holy Spirit to show you every unclean thing you do and when He does, at that moment, ask for the blood to wash you.*

PRAY FOR A HEART OF LOVE (to serve). Charity is love and love never fails. The Lord exalts a Christlike character more than ministries, positions, titles, or spiritual gifts. He is the goodness in our lives – the gifts and fruit and life. Love is the greatest, most powerful weapon we have to defeat the enemy every time. Love never fails. *”Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal” (1 Corinthians 13:1) and 1 Corinthians 13:13 (AMP) says, “And now there remain faith (abiding trust in God and His promises), hope (confident expectation of eternal salvation), love (unselfish love for others growing out of God’s love for me), these three (the choicest graces); but the greatest of these is love”. Challenge: love the unlovely. Do something for someone nobody else does anything for.*

FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – Pray for the fruits of the Spirit to increase in your life every day. 1 Corinthians 13 is of utmost importance. I have learned that Jesus desires a Christlike character more than the gifting’s. Why? Because He is the gift and we choose to be inhabited by a Christlike character. *”But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22, 23).*

This is a well-known and loved passage of Scripture, but I feel people often neglect the significance of each of the fruit of the spirit in each Scripture. Each one is distinct and valuable, and it is so important to incorporate these fruits into our lives daily to really live life to its fullest. **Challenge: Pray that His fruit be manifested on your tree. All of them – Yes, patience to! But don’t forget self-control.**

LOVE: Love is wanting the best for someone with no personal motive or gain intended; just pure love. This truth is such a deep revelation! It is definitely worth reading a few times. This is our greatest weapon. Without love there is nothing. *“Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:14).* When we have been hurt, we must respond like Christ. You have to allow Him to replace your thoughts with His. This takes time. **Challenge: Pray for this to be seen on your face and in your eyes. They show your soul.**

JOY: Joy is great gladness based on His love for others. I love seeing the joy of the Lord impact the lives of pre-believers. *”I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word” (Psalm 119:16). Challenge: If you don’t spend time with His presence, you’ll never have the joy He desires for you to have.*

PEACE: There is peace when the heart and mind are aligned from a vibrant relationship with the Lord. *”You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased” (Psalm 4:7). Challenge: Keep your mind stayed on Jesus. If it ain’t about Him, it’s of the world. Separate yourself.*

PATIENCE: To be patient is to be slow to anger, representing a renewed strength of mind. *“And be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). Challenge: This may be one of the toughest for the prisoner to deal with. Exhibit it daily.*

KINDNESS: Kindness is doing good to all people and not wanting to hurt anyone. *“And to be kind to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32). Challenge: Stop holding that grudge and get that spirit of murder off your back.*

GOODNESS: Goodness is to walk in truth and kindness, also rebuking evil and correcting to produce truth and kindness. *“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the*

tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, 'It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of thieves" (Matthew 21:12,13). **Challenge: When you see a "brother" blow it. Correct him, but also, help restore him.**

FAITHFULNESS: Being faithful is to be loyal, committed, and trustworthy. *For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?" (Roman 3:3). "What then? If some did not believe or were unfaithful (to God), their lack of belief will not nullify and make invalid the faithfulness of God and His word, will it? Certainly not! Let God be found true (as He will be) though every person be found a liar, just as it is written (in Scripture). That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged (by sinful men)." (Romans 3:3-4 AMP).* **Challenge: Let your reputation be a correct representation of your character and not just in the church house.**

GENTLENESS: To be gentle is to be humbly submissive. *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:29).* **Challenge: Be humble. True humility is not thinking of yourself less. It's not thinking of yourself at all.**

SELF-CONTROL: Having control over selfish passions and desires that would pull us away from God. Self-control is needed now more than ever with distractions increasing. **Challenge: This can be a big issue for us, especially being locked up. We know what it is to let ourselves go and be out of control. This is letting His spirit rise up within you to help you walk in the Spirit, rather than the flesh. Resist the devil and he will flee. Our problem is we don't usually resist long enough.**

In conclusion, I want you to really do a self-examination of the fruit or lack thereof on your tree (in your life). It's time to be honest with ourselves. God is about to do something incredible among His people to make a difference to a lost, blind, decadent generation. His desire is that we come into our own as it were, our destiny. What He has for us in the coming days, but the warfare is strong right now. So fight! Don't give up. God is aligning us to maximize our potential. There are greater and brighter days ahead of us. So, if you're lacking, do what you need to do to be renewed.

REPENT!!! Acts 3:9-10 says; *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (2 Corinthians 7:10).*

REFRESH! Times of refreshing come from being in the presence of the Lord. *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. v29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. v30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30 ESV). *And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14 ESV). In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8 ESV). A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. v2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (Psalm 23:1-2 ESV).*

REMOVAL! In Ezekiel 11:19 it says; *"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them, I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh"* So let the Lord do a removal of anything that is hindering or blocking your breakthrough.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20).

BE A GOOD FRUIT BEARER FOR HIS KINGDOM AND HIS GLORY!

Keep the faith!

Chief

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Christ's Heart In Every Felon