

Lesson 4: Bear Fruit

LESSON OBJECTIVE: To focus on the fourth characteristic of an MSMBC disciple and discuss what it means to bear fruit and how we can bear "good" fruit.

THINK ABOUT IT

How would you determine if someone was a good _____?

1. Parent - _____
2. Doctor - _____
3. Teacher - _____
4. Person - _____

The goal of this lesson is to determine what Christians should be doing to exhibit good fruit.

Do you agree or disagree that God has placed a level of expectation on your life to be successful/fruitful?

If there is any question about what should occur in your life, Jesus said in John 15:5, "he bears much fruit."

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-6**INTRODUCTION**

As disciples of Christ, we are expected to bear "good" fruit because we are connected to The Vine, Jesus Christ. As a result of your connection to The Vine, you, the branch should be producing fruit.

I. The Requirement to Bear Fruit

The Believer is filled with the Spirit in order to bear fruit in the Kingdom of God.

Read Ephesians 5:18 - "Be filled with the Spirit."

To be filled with Spirit is to possess the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23

1. Love - Compassion, Caring Deeply
2. Joy - Gladness, Calm, Contentment
3. Peace - Rest, Harmony
4. Patience - Endurance, Perseverance
5. Kindness - Goodness of heart in deeds or actions
6. Goodness - Uprightness of heart and life, moral
7. Faithfulness - Trustworthiness, Integrity, Dependable
8. Gentleness - Lowly before God
9. Self-control - Mastery over desires, Discipline

Characteristics of an **MSMBC DISCIPLE**

II. The Mind Must Be Set on the Spirit, vs. 9-17

The evidence of conversion is the presence of the Holy Spirit. The believer wants a renewed mind, Eph. 4:22-24

Scripture Reference: Romans 8:5-7

The Mind of a believer:

- a. The believer *keeps* his/her mind on developing spiritual character and fruit.
- b. The believer *keeps* his/her mind on carrying out the ministry and mission of Christ.
- c. The believer *keeps* his/her mind upon knowing, believing, and understanding God. (Isaiah 43:10).
- d. The believer *keeps* his/her mind on casting down imaginations and making every *thought* obedient to Christ. (2 Cor. 10:5.)

III. The Believer Must Develop Their Gift

Paul told Timothy not to neglect his gift (1 Tim. 4:14-15). The gifts are to be used to edify the body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-12).

Because God has a job for you, you are to be fruitful through the development of that gift.

Romans 12:6 "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly."

1. God gives you one or more divinely appointed abilities so that you can help others.
2. God has given you a talent and a strength to be used for Him.
3. God has placed love in you for apply as you utilize your gifts and abilities

IV. Believers Bear Fruit Through Connection

Scripture Lesson: John 15:1-6

1. Jesus is The Vine
2. We are the branches
3. Jesus prunes the branches
 - In order for the branch to bear fruit
4. The branch must be attached to The Vine
5. Believers are to abide in Jesus
 - In order to bear fruit
6. Apart from Jesus, the believer can do nothing

The purpose of the believer being connected to The Vine/Jesus

1. Source of nutrition - The Vine supplies the branch.
2. Source of power - The Vine supplies the branch with energy.
3. Source of purpose - The Vine gives the branch a reason to exist.

Characteristics of an **MSMBC DISCIPLE**

As MSMBC Disciples, we want to reflect the connection that we have with The Vine. We are called to bear the fruit of Christian character which is identified through The Fruit of the Spirit.

V. How the Believer Stays Connected to The Vine

Read John 15:7-8

How does the believer stay connected to The Vine?

1. Prayer
2. Study of the Word
3. Practice of Spiritual Disciplines
4. Sharing of the Gospel
5. Participating in Missions

CONCLUSION

Applying the Lesson

Thus, a Mt. Sinai Disciple Bears Fruit as we:

1. Seek to be active in the ministry of the church
2. Utilize and develop their spiritual gifts in a ministry
3. Practices the Fruit of the Spirit
4. Practices Sharing the Gospel and inviting others