

The Fruit God Desires

Jeremiah 24: 1-10

3/23/03

Intro

- Pray for our men who are risking their lives
- Baptism service tonight; with prayer for our men in battle.

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This chapter moves us ahead in time a number of years. Jeremiah had been giving repeated warnings of the impending invasion from Babylon. At this point, there had already been one invasion and exile.

Many good men were taken back to Babylon in that invasion. Among them were Ezekiel, Daniel, and his three friends, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-nego, along with princes and skilled craftsmen.

God then shows Jeremiah two baskets of figs, one filled with the very best, the other filled with the very worst. These are a picture of two groups of people.

These verses are about the fruit that God desires in our lives. Jeremiah gives us insights into how God would produce godly fruit in us as well.

I. Good fruit vs bad fruit

A. Same calamity; different results

- It wasn't the calamity, it was the heart

24: 3 There were two very different reactions to the calamity that fell on the nation of Israel.

Illus – a rotten apple that touches another will pass on it's rotteness.

I Corinthians 15:33 "Do not be deceived, 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'"

- Some people grow from difficult situations, and some do not. They simply kick against it.

Illus – When the nation of Israel came back from captivity, they were ready to serve the Lord and never again went back to idols.

B. The importance of figs

- Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves
- It is a picture of the fruit that God expects in our lives.

Hosea 9:10 "I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first *season*."

Luke 13:6-9 the parable of the fig tree.

Illus – on the way into Jerusalem, Jesus saw a fig tree that had leaves (promise of fruit), but it had none. So Jesus caused its leaves to wither. Some people have leaves, but no fruit.

- It's a picture of the calamity of the end times.

Revelation 6:13 "as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind..."

C. What is the good fruit God desires?

- That which comes out of our relationship with the Lord.
- The character of the Lord

Galatians 5:22 Love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness...

Eph 9 for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all goodness and righteousness and truth

II. Fruit vs “works”

A. Work is done in the flesh

- Work sounds like a factory, with pressures and deadlines.

Illus - If you work you expect wages. This is way many people relate to God. They “do” something for God in the belief that God must now “do” something for them.

- God blesses based on who He is, rather than on the works we do.

B. Fruit is of the Holy Spirit

- Fruit sounds like a garden.
- Fruit is a result of our relationship to Jesus Christ.

John 15:1-17 The vine and the branches

Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- We are not perfected by the works of the flesh.

Galatians 3:2-3 (see also Romans 7:5,4)

III. How godly fruit is produced

A. It begins with a heart to know God

24:6

- **Knowing that God will be with them in a time of calamity.**
- A desire to know Him is more than just good or bad consequences.
- We need to seek to know His heart

B. There is ongoing relationship

- This phrase is used throughout scripture to describe the relationship between God and His people when there is true relationship.

II Corinthians 6:16-18 “I will be a Father to you.”

C. Give God your whole heart

- Too many people are “double-minded.”
- To sit on the fence is to be most miserable of all.

Conclusion

The greatest fruit that God desires is that we would simply love Him. Everything falls from that one pillar.