

Let Us Bear Much Fruit

(John 15:1-8)

Introduction:

1. This morning we talked about the importance of spiritual exercise.
2. This evening we are studying the Lord's instructions found in John 15:1-8 that relate to bearing much fruit.

Discussion:

- I. IN PRESENTING THIS IMPORTANT LESSON, JESUS TALKED ABOUT THINGS THAT WERE FAMILIAR TO THE APOSTLES [a vine, branches, and a husbandman]
 - A. Jesus talked about a "vine."
 1. This was a grapevine that was very useful to people living in Palestine.
 2. Jesus identified Himself as "the vine."
 - a. (vs.1) *"I am the true vine."*
 - b. (vs.5) *"I am the vine."*
 - B. Jesus talked about "branches."
 1. Branches are the part of a grapevine where the fruit grows.
 - a. Branches are connected to the vine, and their function is to bear fruit.
 - 1) A branch that does not bear fruit does not serve any useful purpose.
 - 2) It is actually harmful because it takes nourishment from other branches.
 - 3) It must be removed so the other branches can produce more fruit.
 - b. In order to produce fruit, a branch must abide in the vine - if it is separated from the vine it will not survive.
 2. (vs.5) Jesus identified His followers as the branches - *"ye are the branches."*
 - C. Jesus also talked about the "husbandman."
 1. The husbandman is the caretaker of a vineyard.
 - a. He cares for and tends the grapevines.
 - b. He cuts away the branches that do not bear fruit.
 - c. He prunes the branches that bear fruit so they bear even more fruit.
 2. (vs.1) Jesus identified His Father as the husbandman.
 - a. The Father cuts away every branch that does not bear fruit.
 - b. He prunes the branches that bear fruit so they can produce more fruit.
 - D. By talking about these things the apostles would have understood the lesson that Jesus was teaching them, and we can understand it, too.
 - E. The Lord wants us to bear much fruit.
 1. (Romans 7:4) *"We should bring forth fruit unto God."*

2. Matthew 13:23

II. IN ORDER TO BEAR FRUIT, WE MUST ABIDE IN THE LORD

- A. (vs.4) Just as a branch cannot bear fruit unless it remains in the vine, we cannot bear fruit unless we remain in Christ.
- B. (vs.6) A child of God who does not abide in the Lord will be cut off and cast into the fire at the judgment.
- C. (vs.5) If we abide in Christ and He abides in us we will bring forth much fruit.
 - 1. (vs.8) The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit.
 - 2. We also prove that we are the Lord's true disciples.

III. WHAT IS THE FRUIT THAT THE LORD WANTS US TO BEAR?

- A. "Good works"
 - 1. (Colossians 1:10) We are to be *"fruitful in every good work."*
 - 2. Galatians 6:9-10
- B. "The fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23).
- C. "Other disciples" -- (2 Corinthians 5:18b) The Lord has *"given to us the ministry of reconciliation."*

Conclusion:

- 1. Bearing fruit is a lifelong responsibility (Psalm 92:14a).
- 2. Have you become part of the vine by getting into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27)?
- 3. If you have, are you bearing much fruit?