

## **Discipleship - Session 18**

### **Continue the 6 Marks Of A True Disciple Mark # 6 of a true disciple. - BEARING FRUIT**

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. Our fruit makes either a good declaration or bad declaration about our heavenly Father.
2. What is the purpose of good fruit?
3. What are the primary needs to produce good fruit?
4. What is good fruit?
5. Review of the 6 Marks of a True Disciple.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Communing Word log.
3. Pray 2 Peter 1:1-15 into your life.
4. Pray the 6 Marks into your life.
5. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

## **Mark # 6 of a True Disciple - Bearing Fruit**

### **John 15:8**

John 15:8

8 “*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*” (NKJV)

This is from the vine and the branch passage. - John 15:1-17. Let us read it. Make note of the fact that the fruit is on the branches, not on the vine. If the branches do not bear fruit, the vine is looked upon as being a poor vine. Therefore, if we do not bear fruit, then our heavenly Father is not made to look good. (And we know He is good!)

#### **What is the purpose of good fruit?** (Using the analogy of a fruit tree or vine.)

1. Attracts others - Beautiful fruit attracts people (and animals) to a tree.
2. Declares life - A tree full of fruit declares there is life in this tree; come and receive.
3. Gives identification - By a tree's fruit you know what kind of tree it is.
4. Provides nourishment - Those who eat are nourished.
5. Plants seed - The seed is in the fruit. Seed for creating new trees are spread by the sharing of the fruit.

Can you make spiritual analogy to the five purposes of good fruit listed above?

1. If you have godly fruit in your life, people will be attracted to you.
2. If you have godly fruit in your life, people will see “life” in you they do not see in the world and they will want what you have.
3. If you have godly fruit in your life, people will identify you as a Christian.
4. If you have godly fruit in your life, people will be nourished by what you can share with them.
5. If you have godly fruit in your life, people will have the seed of the Word planted in them that God can water to bring them to salvation.

#### **What are the primary needs to produce good fruit?**

1. Good tree - Matthew 7:17-20
2. Good root system. - Ephesians 3:17
3. Good soil - Matthew 13:23 and Luke 8:15 (with perseverance)
4. Good water - Ephesians 5:26
5. Sunshine - Revelation 1:16; 21:23
6. Pruning - John 15:2

#### **What is good fruit?**

1. Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23.
2. Fruit of our lips giving thanks - Hebrews 13:15
3. Fruit of righteousness - Philippians 1:11
4. Fruit of harvesting souls - Luke 10:1-2; John 4:34-35
5. Fruit of loving others - John 15:1-17 (note verses 5, 9-12, 16-17)
6. Fruit of making disciples - Matthew 28:19

Prepare to make disciples for the rest of your life.

Remember Jesus said “by their fruits” (not their works, nor the size of their ministries) “you will know them.”

**SUMMATION STATEMENT: Much fruit is what declares a plant is healthy. Much spiritual fruit in our lives brings glory to our heavenly Father. This in turn glorifies Jesus. Such people Jesus declares are His disciples.**

Now let us review the 6 Marks Of A True Disciple:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>CHOOSING WISELY</b>    | - Choosing to put Jesus first in all I do.  |
| 2. <b>DYING DAILY</b><br>way | - The way of the cross (dying to self) is the only<br>I can properly mature in following Jesus. |
| 3. <b>FORSAKING ALL</b>      | - “Things” must never stand between me and Jesus.   |
| 4. <b>ABIDING WORD</b>       | - Being “at home” in the Word of God; living it out<br>in daily obedience.                      |
| 5. <b>LIVING LOVE</b>        | - Loving others is the major proof that I belong to<br>Jesus.                                   |
| 6. <b>BEARING FRUIT</b>      | - The process by which I make my heavenly Father<br>known to the world.                         |

Now that you know 14 character qualities of a true disciple, look for them (or the lack of them) in the lives of the people in Scripture.

Make copies and then cut out the handy reference below for a bookmark if you wish. Put one in your Bible; another in your wallet; another on your refrigerator; etc. This will help you keep these 6 marks before you. Pray them into your life regularly.

**TRUE DISCIPLES**

**6 Marks Of A True Disciple**

**I. Choosing Wisely - Luke 14:26**

Matthew 4:21-22; 12:46-50  
Exodus 20:3; Mark 12:28-30

**II. Dying Daily - Luke 14:27**

Luke 9:23-25; Phil. 2:5-8

**III. Forsaking All - Luke 14:33**

Matt. 6:19-21; 1 Tim. 6:17-19

**IV. Abiding Word - John 8:31-32**

Matt. 4:4; John 6:66-69; 15:4-7

**V. Living Love - John 13:34-35**

1 Cor. 13:4-8a; 1 John 3:14-18

**VI. Bearing Fruit - John 15:8**

Gal. 5:22-23; Hebrews 13:15;  
Luke 10:1-2; John 4:34-35;  
Matthew 28:18-20