

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Mar 2023..... John 12:1-19..... Why Wasn't This Sold?
- 2) 12 Mar..... John 12:20-50..... If It Dies
- 3) 19 Mar..... John 13:1-38..... I Will Come Again
- 4) 26 Mar..... John 14:1-31..... Peace I Leave
- 5) **02 Apr..... John 15:1-17..... Remain in Me**
- 6) 09 Apr..... John 20:1-18..... I Have Seen
- 7) 16 Apr..... John 15:18-27; 16:1-33..... When the Spirit Comes
- 8) 23 Apr..... John 17:1-26..... I Pray
- 9) 30 Apr..... John 18:1-27..... I Am He
- 10) 07 May..... John 18:28-40..... I Find No Fault
- 11) 14 May..... John 19:1-42..... If Is Finished
- 12) 21 May..... John 20:19-31..... Reach out Your Hand
- 13) 28 May..... John 21:1-25..... Do You Love Me?

INTRODUCTION

- We have one major goal imposed upon us by our Creator
 - ♦ **We are to produce fruit** – not a little, but a lot of fruit, and this fruit is used to bring glory, credit, and honor to our God; and this fruit is a byproduct of our prayer life – ask and it will be given!
- Take notice how many times Jesus repeats His instructions. The repetition drives home the priority and significance of His teachings on this vital subject of praying for MUCH fruit in our lives

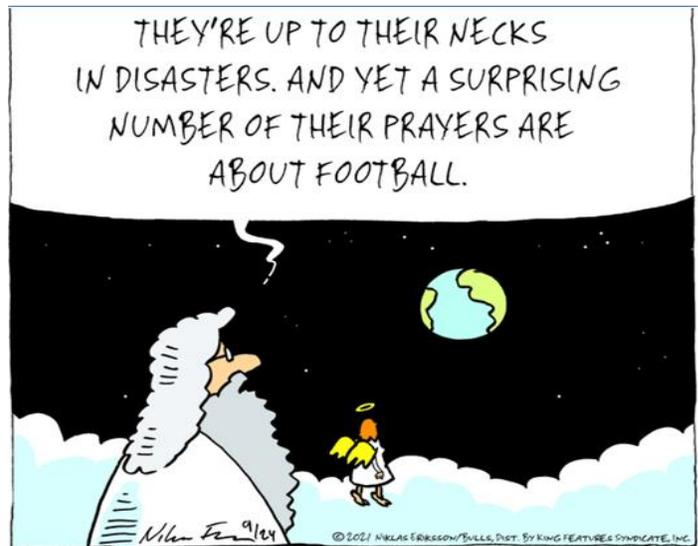
Passage	Comments
John 15:1-11	<p>Our Position as Branches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2a. Branches which do not bear fruit are taken away <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember Jesus is addressing His Disciples ♦ The passage is not alluding to the loss of salvation, but to the loss of rewards ♦ In extreme cases, a believer may be taken home early, further curtailing their ability to develop fruit while here on earth of 1Cor 3:13-15; 11:27-30 • v2b. God prunes the good branches for MORE fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Pruning/disciplining may hurt for a moment, but in the end, it produces fruit of righteousness. Heb 12:11 ♦ Key to minimizing the pain of pruning is to take steps to avoid developing bad fruit (i.e., anger, greed, selfishness, impatience, etc.) which has to be cut out • vv4-5. Abide in Christ to bear MUCH fruit = obedience • v6. Jesus re-emphasizes the judgment aspect of being a non-abider. God disciplines His own, not in the loss of salvation for a true believer, but the loss of rewards, and for non-believers, eternal torment in Hell. • vv7-8. Ask whatever you wish, and it will be done!! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is not a name-it-claim-it game ♦ We need to pray for/ask for MUCH fruit in our lives ♦ Such praying is fully in line with God's will for us ♦ God will be glorified by answering such prayers for MUCH fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) ♦ A side benefit is skeptics will see our answered prayers (our changed character) as proof of our faith • vv9-11. If we truly love God we will keep His commandments, we will want to willingly obey to speak kindly, obey the speed limit, think rightly, act properly
15:12-13	<p>Our Position with Each Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv12-13. How do we lay down our lives for our friends? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Are we willing to give till it hurts, to speak kindly when abused, to forgive when offended? ♦ Does "friends" mean just other Christian friends? ♦ Or can it mean our unsaved neighbors? ♦ Consider Psalm 35:13-14 "when my enemies were sick, I prayed for them; I humbled my soul with fasting; my prayer for them was genuine; I treated them as though they were my friend or brother"

Passage	Comments
15:14-16	<p>Our Position as Friends of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv14-15. God has promoted us from slaves to friends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What does this mean? Is this applicable to the Apostles only or to us as well? ♦ Since we too are now acquainted with the intimate design of His coming, His death, His resurrection, and ascension – we too are friends of God ♦ But friendship is conditional (v14). We must obey. ♦ Willful disobedience leads to broken fellowship and loss of answered prayers • v16a. We are chosen and appointed to bear permanent fruit – which means God is committed to help us bear such fruit • v16b. Here is God's commitment: Whatever fruit we ask for – we will get it! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is not a name-it-claim-it passage for more possessions or positions ♦ The context is in producing fruit for the kingdom, and not seeking creature comforts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Try asking for more patience & see what happens 2. Ask for more witnessing opportunities 3. Ask to grow more in grace and knowledge 4. Ask for more responsibilities ♦ Consider Psalms 5:3 – "In the morning I will pray, then I will watch for an answer"
15:17	<p>Love One Another</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This topic could be a lesson all by itself • How should our love for one another express itself? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In words? What kind of words? <input type="checkbox"/> In actions? What kind of actions? <input type="checkbox"/> Should our actions be different with different age groups? With different genders? With family members?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- The fruit God is looking for is not found in our possessions nor in our position in life, but in the qualities developed in our life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) and in our accomplishments for the kingdom (souls converted, ministered to, and disciplined)

NEXT WEEK: John 20:1-18. Why is it difficult to change our beliefs? Do we have the wrong facts? Wrong Assumptions? Not enough information? Fear of the unknown? Fear of Rejection? Pride?



Modern Prayers