

Dear Friend,

Jesus said we glorify the Father when we bear much fruit. Bearing fruit is part of being His disciple.

Joh 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

We know from the law of Genesis that every seed produces after its own kind. Fruit comes from trees. Trees come from seeds. If you want more fruit, you have to sow more seeds.

Gen 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

It is a never ending cycle. The seed is in the fruit. You plant the seed, a tree grows that produces more fruit, you plant the seeds from the fruit, you get more trees that produce more fruit ...

I have heard it said that you can count how many seeds are in an apple. but you cannot count how many apples are in a seed. I have literally watched that come to pass as my earthly father would plant apple seeds over the years. Some of the trees that grew from those seeds produced apples every season for over 40 years. Think of it ... hundreds of apples produced each season ... from each tree ... for over forty years. Each season the limbs would be so weighed down with apples that sometimes he would have to prop them up with 2 x 6 boards to keep the limbs from breaking. I've wondered ... how many apple trees could have been planted from all of the seeds in those apples over the decades?

It is the same with the word of God. In Mark Chapter Four Jesus describes the Word of God as being seed. He tells the Parable Of The Sower. The Sower sows the Word. What is the purpose of seed sowing? In the natural realm, the purpose is to produce fruit. It is the same with the Word of God.

Isa 55:10-11 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: (11) So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Near the end of Mark Chapter Four, Jesus sows the word to His disciples. *“Let us cross over to the other side.”* The intended fruit was not just arriving on the other shore. The intended fruit was the deliverance of the madman of Gadara. Jesus had left the safety of the ninety nine and had gone seeking to save the one who was lost. Thank God the ministry was successful. The madman of Gadara was delivered and set in his right mind. Fruit had been reaped. A lost sheep has been recovered for the kingdom of God. For years I thought that was the end of the story.

But then Jesus did another sowing. (Remember the law of Genesis ... the seed is in the fruit. The delivered man was the fruit.) When Jesus and His disciples were about to leave, the man who had been delivered wanted to go with Jesus. I don't blame him. I would have wanted to go with Jesus too. But Jesus said no. Jesus wanted him to go all through Decapolis (which included ten cities) and tell what great things the Lord had done for him.

Mar 5:18-20 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. (19) Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. (20) And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Basically Jesus "sowed" this man as a seed to be a witness to that ten city region. This one man who had been delivered was now being sent to "sow" his testimony into hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, preparing them for the day when Jesus would come again to that area, and they would all become fruit harvested for the kingdom of God. Jesus does not call the man an evangelist. He wanted him to be a witness ... to simply go and tell what great things the Lord had done for him. We can all do that.

How many apples are in a seed? Nobody knows for sure. How many lives can be rescued because you share your testimony of what great things the Lord has done for you? Nobody knows for sure. We will only find out in eternity how much fruit was gathered into the kingdom of God as you tell others about Jesus and his goodness to you.

We are not all called to be evangelists, but we are all called to be a witness. I can sure tell people what Jesus has done for me, and you can also.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY