

FRUITFULNESS: PRESERVING THE SEED

(Mat 13:1 KJV) The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. (Mat 13:2 KJV) And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. (Mat 13:3 KJV) And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; (Mat 13:4 KJV) And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

(Mat 13:5 KJV) Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: (Mat 13:6 KJV) And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (Mat 13:7 KJV) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: (Mat 13:8 KJV) But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. (Mat 13:9 KJV) Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

- A. *Seed fell on way side*--devoured by the fowls of the air.
- B. *Seed fell on stony ground*--withered because of lack of depth.
- C. *Seed fell among thorns*--choked by the cares of this life.

II. BEING FRUITFUL BY PRESERVING THE SEED.

- A. *Fruitfulness: Developing Understanding.*
- B. *Fruitfulness: Developing a Good Root System.*
- C. *Fruitfulness: Dealing with the Stresses of Life.*
- D. *Fruitfulness: Cultivating Good Soil.*

III. A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT.

- A. (Mat 7:16 KJV) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (Mat 7:17 KJV) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. (Mat 7:18 KJV) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (Mat 7:19 KJV) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (Mat 7:20 KJV) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.
- B. (Luke 6:43 KJV) For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. (Luke 6:44 KJV) For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. (Luke 6:45 KJV) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.
- C. Born again experience.

IV. GOD DESIRES FRUIT.

- A. *(John 15:16 KJV) Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you,*
 - 1. That ye should go and bring forth fruit, and
 - 2. That your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
- B. *Unfruitful tree destroyed.*
 - 1. (Mat 3:10 KJV) And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

2. (Luke 13:6 KJV) He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. (Luke 13:7 KJV) Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? (Luke 13:8 KJV) And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: (Luke 13:9 KJV) And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.
3. (John 15:2 KJV) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (John 15:3 KJV) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. (John 15:4 KJV) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (John 15:5 KJV) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:6 KJV) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (John 15:7 KJV) If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:8 KJV) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- C. ***The Tree of Life.*** (Rev 22:2 KJV) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

V. PARTAKERS OF HIS DIVINE NATURE.

- A. ***Exceeding, great, and precious promises.*** (2 Pet 1:3 KJV) According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (2 Pet 1:4 KJV) Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- B. ***Fruitfulness through spiritual development.*** (2 Pet 1:5 KJV) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; (2 Pet 1:6 KJV) And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; (2 Pet 1:7 KJV) And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. (2 Pet 1:8 KJV) For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. ***Fruit of the Spirit.***
 1. (Gal 5:22 KJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (Gal 5:23 KJV) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
 2. (Eph 5:9 KJV) (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

VI. GOD'S PROMISE TO US.

- A. ***Blessings through obedience.*** (Deu 28:1 KJV) And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: (Deu 28:2 KJV) And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. (Deu 28:3 KJV) Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. (Deu 28:4 KJV) Blessed shall be the

fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. (Deu 28:5 KJV) Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. (Deu 28:6 KJV) Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. (Deu 28:7 KJV) The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. (Deu 28:8 KJV) The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Deu 28:9 KJV) The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. (Deu 28:10 KJV) And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. (Deu 28:11 KJV) And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee. (Deu 28:12 KJV) The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. (Deu 28:13 KJV) And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

- B. ***God will rebuke the devourer for our sakes.*** (Mal 3:10 KJV) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Mal 3:11 KJV) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.