The Fruitful Life KZ Lesson Sun Am 9 6 20

# Memory Verse: John 15:5 (NKJV)

**5**“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Target Thought: We produce good fruit for Jesus.

This morning we are going to learn how to have fruitful lives and how to bear good fruit in Jesus. 1. Jesus said you can tell a tree by the fruit it bears, lets read the scriptures for that:

# Matthew 7:16-20 (NKJV)

**16**You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

**17**Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

**18**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. **19**Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**20**Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Jesus was teaching us here that a bad tree can't bear good fruit and a good tree can't bear bad fruit.

Apples are a good fruit, let's learn some things about apples.

• Apples not only taste good, they are good for you. Apples are fat-free, salt-free, cholesterol-free, and a good source of vitamins to help you grow.

• There is an apple called a "Red Delicious," but you may be surprised to know that there are over 7500 different types of apples in the world.

• The top five apple-producing countries in the world are China, the United States, Turkey, Italy and France.

There are a lot of different ways to enjoy apples. For example, you might enjoy some apple juice or apple cider. Some children like to take applesauce in their school lunches. Have you ever had some tasty apple butter on your toast in the morning? Apple slices dipped in caramel are a delicious treat. My all-time favorite, of course, is apple pie!

I am sure that all of you know where we get apples. They come from apple trees. Well, what would you do if you planted an apple tree in your garden, watered it, and took care of it and it never produced any apples? It wouldn't be much good as an apple tree, would it? The tree wouldn't be called a fruitful tree would it? So bascially the tree would not be doing what God had created it to do, right?

Jesus told a story about a man who had a fig tree in his vineyard that didn't produce any figs. For three years he waited for the tree to produce fruit -- but still no figs. He went to the man who took care of the tree and told him to cut it down. The caretaker asked the owner to give him one more year to dig around the tree and fertilize it to see if the tree would produce some figs. The owner agreed to give the tree another chance.

Jesus taught us in Galatians what "good fruit" is, we know that we are to always bear good fruit. We should see these "fruits" in our lives everyday. Let's review what they are.

# Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)

**22**But the fruit of the Spirit is 2. love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**23**gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

In telling this story about the fruit tree, Jesus was really talking about us - and about God. God has "planted" us on this earth and he expects us to produce the good fruit we just read about. good fruit in our life. When He doesn't see these things in our life, He is very disappointed He is disappointed because He knows that good choices bring good consequences and bad choices bring bad consequences, -- but He is always willing to give us another chance, and to help us.

Jesus wants to care for us and help us to be the kind of fruit-bearing children that God wants us to be. 3. If we will trust in Him, read his Word, pray, walk in love and forgiveness and be willing and obedient to all the things He has ask us to -- He will help us to produce a lot of good fruit.

Dear Jesus, help us to have the kind of fruit in our lives that would be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Amen.

1. Did Jesus say that we could tell a tree by the fruit it bears?

2. List the 9 fruits of the Spirit.

3. Tell me at least 2 ways that we can bear good fruit.