

06-04-2024 Lessons from the Berry Patch #10

Pick the Big Ones #1

“In the berry patch, there’s big berries and there’s small berries; your bucket fills up faster if you find the big ones.” – Br’er Rabbit.

Lord, it seems to me that the biggest, juiciest berries are always in the middle of the vine, You know - down where they are hard to spot and hard to reach. Claiming those big ones can cost you a thorn or two.

It is easier to pick lots of the little ones that seem to be everywhere; it takes more effort and it takes longer to fill the bucket, but it is the path of least resistance.

If we want the real rewards of the Berry Patch, we must reach deeper, take a few risks and brave the thorns. Aren’t we glad that Our Savior, Jesus Christ didn’t take the easy path?

Jesus could have set up shop in Jerusalem, been a very successful teacher of The Law and made a difference in people’s lives for 70 or 80 years... We would benefit from his wisdom, but the price for our sin would not have been paid. We would have been knowledgeable, but unredeemed. In order to provide the forgiveness of sin and pave the way for our resurrection into the Kingdom of God, Jesus had to take a risk, a risk that cost Him His earthly life.

Lord, our lives are full of “berry patches” and the tenor of our lives is determined by how we do our picking. It is so easy for us to fill our days with mindless mediocrity, picking little berries. BUT You have called us to do great things – to rise above the mundane, to excel in whatever we do. We are the King’s Kids!

In Colossians we are reminded that whatever we do, we should do it heartily, as unto the Lord.

Col 3:22-25

Servants, do what you’re told by your earthly masters. And don’t just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God, confident that you’ll get paid in full when you come into your inheritance. Keep in mind always that the ultimate

Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up bad work. ^{MSG}

When I arrive before Your Throne, with blue-stained fingers and lips (sorry Lord, I had to sample a few); when I lay that bucket before You, I want to have the best berries that I could find. I want them all to be big and juicy. I want You to say “nice job, David – those are wonderful berries; did you see any snakes?” (It makes me feel brave when You ask me about snakes).

Remind us Lord, to pick carefully...

We desire nothing more than to hear those words of eternal invitation, “Well done, good and faithful berry picker...enter into the joy of the Lord.” (Matthew 25:21 Berry Patch Version*).

Lord, help us to live at our best for You in The Berry Patch today.

