

05-07-2024 Lessons From the Berry Patch #2

Good morning folks,

It is always a great day when the Dewberries are ripe!

I love picking berries, they seem to be a true gift from You, Father. We do nothing to plant them, water them, fertilize them or otherwise nurture them and yet, there they are. I can't resist putting on my boots, grabbing a bucket and wading off into the berry patch. Manna from Heaven.

Funny thing Lord, as I was in the berry patch right after work (OK, I left work just a little early), eight of our truck-drivers came by on their way home and each one of them called out "Watch out for snakes, David!!" About 45 minutes later, I emerged from the berry patch with over a gallon of berries – and guess what I saw while I was in there? Eight truck-drivers and not one snake!

Lord, I confess that I am tempted to tell them that I saw several snakes in there... Then none of them will want to enter that glory hole of a berry patch. I will have that whole "snake-infested, serpent-laden, Water Moccasin breeding ground, viper-pit of a berry patch all to myself!

OK, Lord I won't really do that. BUT how many times do You lay a spiritual berry patch in front of us, gleaming with goodness, and we don't venture in because we are afraid that there might be snakes in there? You invite us to wade in, grab those berries and emerge with blue hands and blue lips, hauling out a bucket of blessing that You have provided. Even when we see Your bounty awaiting us, we sometimes think there must be a catch – we don't really believe that you are really that good to us. There has to be a snake there somewhere.

We forget sometimes that we serve a genuinely good God. In the Book of Lamentations, chapter 3, the prophet Jeremiah says it this way:

²² The faithful love of the Lord never ends!

His mercies never cease.

²³ Great is his faithfulness;

his mercies begin afresh each morning.

²⁴ I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance;
therefore, I will hope in him!”

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who depend on him,
to those who search for him. ^{NLT}

Do you feel like there are snakes crawling around in your Berry Patch today?
Are you tempted to stay inside where it is, “safe?” When will we learn that
our only safety is found in our Almighty God, the King of the Universe?

We read in Psalm 91:1-2:

¹ Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² This I declare about the LORD:
He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
He is my God, and I trust Him. ^{NLT}

Put a bookmark at Psalm 91 in your Bible. Any time you are fearful or afraid,
read of The Lord’s protection there.

Thanks for those berries, Lord. I can’t wait for Pat to work her magic with
them.

In Jesus’ Name we pray,

Amen.

Remember that our Good God is our protector out there in the Berry Patch!



My granddaughter, Ella and I picking berries in 2010.