

Sunday, August 13, 2017
Edible Evidence – Part 2
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Good morning! Today is the second installment of a two-part series called Edible Evidence. This short series has benefited me as I've aloud these two verses to challenge my heart. I would suggest that these two verses in the bible are arguable some of the most important verse in scripture.

Last week Pastor Lester walked us through chapter 5 of Galatians where the bible is so clear to communicate that if you are an authentic follower of Jesus then your life will display certain Jesus like characteristics. Galatians refers to them as the fruit of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

The use of the word fruit might sound a little churchy but the bible uses that word intentionally to create a picture in our minds. The picture is of a tree or a vine, and the fruit that grows off of it. The picture is to remind us that just like the fruit of a tree grows according to whatever type of tree it is, as long as it is attached to the tree; we will grow more and more or display The characteristic of Jesus more and more, as long as we are connected to him.

The bible uses this fruit word picture but this idea isn't foreign to us. It's just another word for evidence. We like evidence.

We like evidence to prove where we have been, who we are, and what we have accomplished.

- You ever work out – I have been in the gym
- Shopping – carry the bag, everything else you buy goes in that bag so the name brand is on the outside.
- Vacations – people wear shirts from vacation just to rub it in. I was in Bermuda
- Trophy rooms –
- Big houses or nice cars -

We like evidence to prove where we have been, who we are, and what we have accomplished.

1) Followers of Jesus are grieved when their life does not display the fruit of the spirit

Can I raise the temperature for just a moment, can I get kind of serious? Because this scripture has been eating at me. Like, just how important and serious these words are. They are so easy to take lightly and yet I don't think Jesus took these words lightly at all.

The thing that has been eating at me is that I have seen people with Godly sorrow for some things in scripture but not for other things. I've seen grown men cry over addiction, profanity, adultery, greed and anger. I've seen women come for pray in tears for eating disorders, gossiping, being judgmental. I've even seen it in my own life where one thing in scripture wil grab me but something else wont.

In some cases, we mention other sins and we almost laugh like gluttony.

I guess I want to ask the question as we read this list of evidence that you have been with Jesus where is the Godly sorrow? I had to ask myself that question, the truth is that I am not gentle enough. I have my moments probably more often than not, but I am still weak particularly with my children. I am not always kind. I lack self-control. Where is the Godly sorrow?

Don't we realize the bible is literally telling us what it's like to be a person who loves Jesus, is like Jesus, spends time with Jesus. And we brush these qualities off I just think I grieves the Holy spirit when we do that.

Rick

Rick knew something that at that time I didn't really understand yet.

We are sinful people undeserving of God's love. We have received the Love of God. So, we share Gods loves freely, even to sinful people who are undeserving of God's love.

When we read these words

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

This is the goal this is the mark this is where God wants us to grow and to change. In fact, all through his ministry he warns people.

Matthew 23:23 New International Version (NIV)

²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

As people, we are sometimes so much more likely to follow rules and religious obligations or tasks other than love people. Jesus taught on this in the sermon on the mount.

Matthew 7:15-23

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

This is a haunting portion of scripture. You can go to church, you can do great things for God, and yet if the fruit of your life is not love then you've missed it. you've missed heaven.

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Let the weightiness of these words sink in, these words matter, maybe even more than we can know.

No one came to church today hoping that they would get all emotional and upset about their lack of Christ likeness.

But could I honestly ask you, when were you last really bothered by the fact that your life doesn't display the fruit of the spirit.

- 2) The fruit of the spirit is not a list of behaviors we strive to obtain. They are a thermostat of sorts, informing us of how attached we are to Jesus.**

When you notice that your life is lacking the fruit of the spirit it's kind of like a check engine light.

I had a friend named Mike in College he used to cut my hair.

It doesn't mean it won't take effort, and intentionality. We don't just lay down on the floor and say use me Lord. The bible says live this way walk this way, spur one another on toward love and good deeds, fight the good fight of faith, work out your salvation, so it does take effort, it does take focus but it is an empowered effort,

For about two weeks of my life I was attempting to be like Jesus so I could be a better leader.

- 3) Cultivating a lifestyle that reflects the fruit of the spirit is important to the believer because it is deeply rooted in our purpose.**

Talk with and leader about some frustrations we had in a ministry we were involved in. if you won't give me vision at least pay me, you know what never mind I don't care if you pay me, give me vision.

Sharing Gods love with people is why we are here. Maybe your just surrounded with people who live like Jesus, can I tell you there are people who rarely if ever hear a kind word, who rarely if ever receive a gentle response. Who rarely if ever know peace. And we can bring it to them. We are called to bring it to them.

We reviewed the first four last week let's take a look at the last four.

Good and Faithful

These words are normally reserved for describing God, but they are used at least two time in describing people, the way they are used I believe is the same way they are to be interpreted in the Galatians,

Matthew 25:21 New International Version (NIV)

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

2 Kings 20:3

“Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Gentle**Philippians 4:5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.**

Gentleness is a way of doing things not a way of avoiding things. I can’t address a tough issue I have to be gentle. No just address it gently, gentleness is not weakness.

Self-Control

The ability to control oneself, in particular one's emotions and desires or the expression of them in one's behavior, especially in difficult situations:

The term self-control comes up a bunch of time in the new testament when describing the attributes of believers. It directly relates this term to husbands, women, young men, elders, and leaders.

The self-controlled person does not over eat, over spend, over sleep, over work, or go over time when they preach.

Conclusion

- 1) Followers of Jesus are grieved when their life does not display the fruit of the spirit
- 2) The fruit of the spirit is not a list of behaviors we strive to obtain. They are a thermostat of sorts, informing us of how attached we are to Jesus.
- 3) Cultivating a lifestyle that reflects the fruit of the spirit is important to the believer because it is deeply rooted in our purpose.