



A Stand Alone Message | God Never Wastes a Barren Season

Lisa Allen | 05.10.26

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Begin by asking God to speak to each person's heart and to create a safe space for honest sharing and reflection.

Icebreaker

Share one thing you're grateful for this Mother's Day season, regardless of whether you're a mother, have a mother, or are navigating complicated relationships.

Key Scripture Passages

- Genesis 1:26-28
- John 15:5, 8
- Isaiah 43:1-3, 19-21
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Psalm 92:12-15

Main Takeaways

1. We Are Created for Fruitfulness

God made us in His image to be fruitful and multiply—not just biologically, but spiritually. Our purpose is to reflect His character and make disciples.

2.

Barrenness Is Universal

Everyone faces barren seasons—times when we feel unproductive, inadequate, or lacking. These aren't just about physical children but about feeling stuck, broken, or fruitless in any area of life.

3. God's Promises Sustain Us

During difficult seasons, we must cling to God's promises that He is near to the brokenhearted, He will do something new, and His plans are for our welfare and future hope.

4. Letting Go Precedes Breakthrough

Like accepting a flight upgrade requires releasing your original seat, moving into God's future requires releasing the past—even comfortable patterns that no longer serve us.

5. The Purpose of Fruit Is God's Glory

We don't bear fruit for our own benefit or reputation, but to declare God's praise and demonstrate His redemptive power.

Discussion Questions

Opening Up

1. What resonated most with you from this sermon? Was there a particular verse or story that stuck with you?
2. When you hear the word "barren," what immediately comes to mind? How does the broader definition (unproductive, unfruitful, lacking) expand your understanding?

Going Deeper

3. Read Genesis 1:26-28. How does understanding that fruitfulness is part of being made in God's image change how you view your purpose?

4. The speaker mentioned praying for specific outcomes versus praying for the fruit of the Spirit. Have you experienced a time when God answered your prayer differently than you expected? How did that affect your faith?
5. Look at Galatians 5:22-23. If the Holy Spirit asked you which fruit needs the most attention in your life right now, what would your honest answer be? Why?
6. The sermon states: "The song without the suffering doesn't tell the whole story." What does this mean to you? How have you seen God work through difficult seasons in your life?

Getting Personal

7. What are you holding onto from the past that might be preventing you from receiving God's "upgrade" for your future?
8. Read Isaiah 43:18-19. What "new thing" might God be trying to do in your life that you've been resisting or overlooking?
9. The speaker shared that "the greatest barrenness in the life of a Christian is not producing fruit exactly where God has planted you." Where has God planted you right now? What might fruitfulness look like in that specific place?

Applying Truth

10. The story of the speaker's grandfather demonstrates that redemption can happen at any age and after any amount of time. Who in your life needs you to keep praying for them, even if you've been praying for years?
11. John 15:5 says "without me you can do nothing." What area of your life are you trying to handle in your own strength rather than abiding in Christ?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

- Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
 1. **Prayer Shift:** Instead of praying for a specific outcome you desire, spend time praying for God to produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life. Journal about what changes.
 2. **Promise Meditation:** Write out one of the promises from Isaiah 43, Jeremiah 29:11, or Psalm 92 and place it somewhere you'll see daily. Memorize it by the end of the week.

3. **Surrender Exercise:** Identify one thing from your past you need to release. Write it down, pray over it, and symbolically "let it go" (tear up the paper, bury it, etc.).
 4. **Fruitfulness Assessment:** Evaluate where God has planted you (work, neighborhood, family, church). Identify one specific way you can be fruitful in declaring God's praise in that place this week.
 5. **Intercessory Commitment:** Choose someone who seems far from God and commit to praying for them daily for the next 30 days, remembering the grandfather's story.
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Reflection Questions for Journaling

- What barren area of my life am I inviting God into today?
 - What would it look like to abide more fully in Christ this week?
 - How can my current struggle become a testimony of God's faithfulness?
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Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for those experiencing literal or spiritual barrenness
 - Ask God to help the group surrender areas they've been holding onto
 - Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be evident in each person's life
 - Thank God that His mercies are new every morning and His compassions never fail
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For Next Week

Come prepared to share one way you saw God bring life or fruit from a barren place in your life this week.

"By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit." - John 15:8