

DARING FAITH

Ryland Walter | March 4-5, 2023

Week 4: Daring To Plant in Faith

Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. ²⁸ The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. ²⁹ And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come." Mark 4:26-29 (NLT)

Jesus: "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8 (NIV)

- *Bearing fruit is the purpose of my salvation*
- *Bearing fruit fills me with joy*
- *A productive life is one where the fruit lasts*

Jesus: "I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last..." John 15:16 (NIV)

Kinds of Fruit

1. The fruit of _____
2. The fruit of _____
3. The fruit of _____
4. The fruit of _____
5. The fruit of _____

...Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Matthew 3:10 (NIV)

To Bear Fruit...

1. I must plant good _____

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24 (NIV)

A seed is anything valuable _____

2. I must _____

This is what the Lord says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord. ⁶ They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land.

⁷ "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. ⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit. Jeremiah 17:5-8 (NLT)

3. I must eliminate the _____ in my life

What is the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? It is like those who hear God's teaching, but they let the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life keep them from growing. So they never produce good fruit. Luke 8:14 (ICB)

4. I must cooperate with God's _____ in my life

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:1-2 (NIV)

Never confuse pruning with _____

5. I must _____ patiently and expect a harvest

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Jesus: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. But apart from me you can do nothing!" John 15:5 (NIV)

6. I must plant at the best time: _____

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

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Kinds of Fruit

1. The fruit of repentance
2. The fruit of The Spirit
3. The fruit of sharing my faith
4. The fruit of ministry to others
5. The fruit of generosity

Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Matthew 3:10 (NIV)

To Bear Fruit...

1. I must plant good seed

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24-25 (NIV)

A seed is anything valuable I give away

2. I must cultivate deep roots

This is what the Lord says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord. ⁶ They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future. They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land.

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3. I must eliminate the weeds in my life

What is the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? It is like those who hear God's teaching, but they let the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life keep them from growing. So they never produce good fruit. Luke 8:14 (ICB)

4. I must cooperate with God's pruning in my life

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:1-2 (NIV)

Never confuse pruning with punishment

5. I must wait patiently and expect a harvest

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

Jesus: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. But apart from me you can do nothing!" John 15:5 (NIV)

6. I must plant at the best time: NOW

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)



DARING TO PLANT IN FAITH
Talk-it-Over Notes | March 4-5, 2023

REVIEW IT

Another analogy for faith is that of farming. Jesus often used the laws of sowing and reaping, planting and harvesting to tell us what faith in the Kingdom of God is like. Jesus was clear that bearing fruit is the purpose of our salvation because bearing fruit brings glory to God. He wants us to bear the lasting fruit of repentance, The Spirit, sharing faith, ministry to others and generosity. How can we bear lasting fruit?

1. Plant good seed
2. Cultivate deep roots
3. Eliminate the weeds
4. Cooperate with God's pruning
5. Wait patiently, expecting a harvest
6. Plant now!

Spend some time in the word: Read John 15

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is your favorite season? What are you looking forward to about spring?
2. Look over the five kinds of fruit from scripture listed on the outline. The fruit of repentance, The Spirit, sharing my faith, ministry to others and generosity. Who in your life shows any of those types of fruit?
3. Which of the six ways to bear fruit really stood out to you in the message?
4. It's common to confuse pruning with punishment. Jesus took our punishment – and it's in the past. God prunes us for our good – because of the future potential he sees in us. Hebrews 12:11 says *"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."* Describe a time when you mistook God's pruning in your life as punishment. How did thinking it was punishment affect your attitude toward God? How might this perspective shift help you work with God in a more productive way in the future to bring fruit and growth in your life?

ACT ON IT

The time to plant is now! *"Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest."* Make this message practical. What do you need to plant?

PRAY ABOUT IT

Ask how you can pray for a support one another this week and then close in prayer.