

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 Bible Study Notes
Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live
Fruit of the Spirit Series: Goodness
Text: Mark 4:1-20

Summer Series: Fruit of the Spirit

- Love – what does it mean to love God, love our neighbor, love our enemy, love ourselves?
- Joy – “rejoice always”; “the joy of the Lord is my strength”
- Peace – seek peace and pursue it... dig around for it because it doesn’t come naturally
- Patience – how do we become satisfied with what Christ offers?
- Kindness – kindness of Christ when talking with the woman caught in adultery, and kindness when dealing with our own sin; kindness when restoring Peter, we can all be restored
- Sunday – goodness; we put our own definition of “good” and “bad” on God; Joseph responded with “what you meant for evil, God intended for good” when they repented
- Tonight: what does it mean to be “good” soil?

What does it take for a weed to grow? Nothing...

The word “parable” comes from two Greek words—para and ballo—which means “to throw alongside.”

The parable is straightforward:

- The seed is the Word of God – everyone received them, but responded differently
- Hard path...birds ate them. You can’t plant corn in concrete.
- Rocky ground...roots couldn’t sink in and the little plant eventually died.
- Thorns...the seeds began to grow, but the weeds sucked the life out of them
- Good soil...yields a much larger crop than expected

The first group consists of those who hear but do not believe at all

The second group consists of those who listen but then fall away because no roots develop

The third group listens and grows and wants to grow more, but gets distracted and tempted

- There will always be weeds in our lives, and they will grow with no help from us at all.
- It’s what we do about it that counts

The fourth group consists of those who listen, retain the Word, and bear spiritual fruit, evidence of their spiritual life.

- There is transformation
- This takes continual cultivation...you don’t plant flowers and then never water them or give them sunlight and expect them to grow

Two Questions To Ponder:

1. What kind of soil are we? Third or fourth? Are the thorns and weeds choking us, or are we producing fruit?
 - Temptations and distractions everywhere
 - So easy to get sucked in
 - It takes work to disconnect. It's counter-cultural.
 - Are we listening for the still, small voice?

2. What kind of seeds are we scattering? Evangelism...are we scattering tomato seeds when we should be scattering mustard seeds?
 - Are we sharing the true gospel, or are we adding or subtracting?
 - What do we show people by our lives? We say we are Christian...do we act like it?
 - Benediction: "You may be the best Jesus someone sees"
 - We aren't Jesus, but we may be the only Christian someone knows
 - Not perfection...but do we repent? Do we forgive? Do we live out the Word? Do we act one way Sunday morning and another way the rest of the week?