

The Gospel of John
Part 32
John 12:23-17
Bearing Fruit

John 15:1–8 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷ “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

1. Those who are disciples of Jesus have a number of very cool **blessings** and **rewards** that come from Jesus.

a. Disciples are **honored** by the **Father** in a special way.

John 12:26 “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

b. Disciples have the **joy** of Jesus **filling** their heart.

John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

c. Disciples have the amazing privilege of being **friends** of **Jesus** .

John 15:14–16 “You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit

would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

d. Disciples have a special **anointing** from the **Holy Spirit**

John 16:13–15 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ “He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

e. Disciples are able to manage much **pressure** because they have **peace** and **courage** from Jesus.

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

f. Jesus **intercedes** in a special way for Disciples and **protects** us from the **evil** one.

John 17:15–18 “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. ¹⁶ “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

John 17:12 “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

g. Disciples are **sent** into the **world** and get special **assignments** from Jesus.

John 15:16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

John 17:17–18 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

h. Disciples have much more **power** with God when they **pray**.

John 14:13–14 “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ “If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:16 “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

John 16:23–24 Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴ “Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

i. Disciples have the potential to **do greater works** than Jesus did.

John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

2. A Christian is a disciple by **commitment**, which needs to be made **daily**.

Luke 9:23 And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Romans 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 6:13 but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

3. The only way anybody will remember to make a **daily commitment** to follow and obey Jesus is to establish it as a ritual.

4. The greatest **barrier** to successfully **following** Jesus is **loving** the world.

John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

John 17:16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2 Timothy 2:4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

5. A faithful disciple of Jesus **examines** his life and heart often for any **hint** of **worldliness**.

6. A key spiritual **discipline** of those who want to be disciples of Jesus is **giving** a portion of their **money** to the work of God.

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

7. Our **sacrificial giving** is a major **accelerator** in our fruit bearing.

John 12:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

2 Corinthians 9:6–10 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all

grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; ⁹ as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever."
¹⁰ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;