

Series: Disciples of Christ

FRUITFUL DISCIPLE

ACTS 3:1-11

Text:

Introduction:

This evening we will look to the “Fallen Disciple” (Peter) and the “Faithful Disciple” (John) and see a few things about “Fruitful Disciples”

Consider what the Lord said in - John 15:16

John 15:16

¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

The Lord tells His disciples that He chose them. He chose them for a purpose- “To Bear fruit”

Notice:

1. THE REACH OF FRUITFUL DISCIPLES

Note:

A. They Reach People Personally - Acts 3:1-11

Acts 3:1-11

¹ Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. ² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; ³ Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. ⁴ And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. ⁵ And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. ⁶ Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. ⁷ And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God: ¹⁰ And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. ¹¹ And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together

unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

Imagine how many people simply ignored this beggar each day.

You know how it is, many see someone who looks different or undesirable and you will go out of your way not to come near that person. Maybe there were some who weren't offended or put off by this man but they simply didn't have (or take) the time to deal with him.

We are told that when Peter & John encountered him they "fastened their eyes on him" Think of how many people you encounter on a daily basis that are going through difficulty and are just hoping someone will notice and offer to help.

How many lost souls do you work with?

If we desire to be a "fruitful disciple" we MUST reach out to people personally.

Not only do fruitful Disciples reach people personally:

B. They Reach People Publicly Acts 3:9-26

Acts 3:9-26

⁹ *And all the people saw him walking and praising God:*

¹⁰ And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and **they were filled with wonder and amazement** at that which had happened unto him. ¹¹ And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. ¹² And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. ¹⁴ But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; ¹⁵ And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. ¹⁷ And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: ²¹ Whom the heaven must receive

until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. ²³ And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. ²⁴ Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. ²⁵ Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. ²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

After this miracle, the people saw this beggar walking and praising God.

The crowd was amazed!

Peter saw the crowd and immediately addressed them. He told them that they did nothing GOD DID; the same God that sent His Son Jesus to them.

This same Jesus that they rejected.

He boldly proclaims that his man was healed
“THROUGH FAITH IN THE NAME OF JESUS”

Note what Peter then tells them:

Acts 3:19

¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

The message that we share is the same as Peter’s message back then! We are to reach people personally but never pass up the opportunity to reach a crowd.

Fruitful Disciples reach people personally and publicly but also:

C. They Reach People Properly

Acts 4:1-4

¹ And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, ² Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. ⁴ Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Peter made it clear that this miracle was not through their own power. Peter and John preached Christ!

In fact, if you read the entirety of chapter 3 you find a great summary of the Gospel.

Being a fruitful disciples is not about you ...It is not about personally glory ...It is about obedience and GOD'S GLORY!!

Notice not only "The Reach of Fruitful Disciples" but also:

2. THE RESOLVE OF FRUITFUL DISCIPLES

Acts 4:1-4

¹ And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, ² Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. ⁴ Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

After the miracle and the message came persecution! They were seized and held overnight. The next day they were brought before Annas the high priest as well

as Caiaphas and others. They asked “By what power, have you done this?”

Note verses 8-10:

Acts 4:8-10

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, ⁹ If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; ¹⁰ Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Peter then boldly proclaims - “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

The members of the council were amazed at the boldness of Peter and John.

They knew that they were ordinary men.

They could tell that they had no special training.

They did not compromise.

They did not fear imprisonment or death.

They were resolute and stood firm and spoke the truth.

In fact, they used it as ANOTHER opportunity to share the gospel!

When you are a Fruitful disciple you will encounter persecution.

Fruitful disciples must have the resolve to remain bold in the face of persecution!

What is the benefit of being a “fruitful disciple”?

Consider lastly:

3. THE RESULTS OF FRUITFUL DISCIPLES (ACTS 4:4)

Acts 4:4

⁴ Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Let's go back to the verse we looked at earlier.

John 15:16

¹⁶ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

If you are a disciple, you are called to be a FRUITFUL DISCIPLE! When you are fruitful, here are the results:

A. Lives Will Be Changed

Acts 4:4

⁴ Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

How amazing it must have been to witness this man who had been “lame from his mother’s womb” begins to walk, leap and praise the Lord. What a blessing to witness a life being changed.

Close:

The secret to church growth is not found in the latest trendy music or in changing the service to accommodate the “seekers.” Like the fisherman in the early church, we are simply common people with an uncommon Saviour! As we are faithful to proclaim the Gospel, the Holy Spirit touches hearts and produces a harvest. Persecution and trials will come, but let us not be weary in well doing and be true to the Saviour.

When suffering comes, rejoice in the fruit God will ultimately bring from it.