



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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KEEP THE CLUTTER OUT BE FRUITFUL

This series was preached from August 21st to September 4th, 2022

Matthew 25:1-13

- 1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
- 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
- 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
- 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.
- 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.
- 10 **And while they went to buy**, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
- 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
- 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
- 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

I want to point out a couple things here:

TIME TABLE: this is clearly talking about the time that we are living in...there has been a lot of waiting for the coming of the bridegroom...at at the POINT in time where they are declaring it is time...they ran out of oil.

Vs. 7 – Lights would burn...cloth or wick would get dry and charred, therefore dim!

So they would refresh the oil...get rid of the charred...light would be brighter.

Vs. 8 – Those who ran out of oil...burned out!

BELOVED: vs. 9 - You are responsible for your own oil.

Vs. 10 – “They went and bought.”

Here is what is going on...when you run out of oil...you start substituting...start trying other things...start accumulating things that have not worked.

When I say you start accumulating...you start filling your heart with things that have not worked... are not working...**but just take up room in your hearts.**

ILLUSTRATION: I have so many illustrations of this...it isn't even funny.

- Our junk drawer at our house.
- Our garage at our house.
- Our closet in your house.
- Every closet in the church.

The point is...it is a room or drawer of stuff that is not really important, but that begins taking up space. Just a cluttered space that is no longer really useful for anything else.

BELOVED: That is the biggest point that I am bringing to you today. In these last days, there will be a **heap of people who have allowed a lot of clutter to get in their hearts**. The problem is that the clutter will stop things from growing in your heart/life.

- The things that God wants to do in your life...He will no longer be able to do.
- The things that God wants to do for you...He will no longer be able to do.
- The way that God wants for you to live...you will no longer operate in.

NOTE: It is interesting that most people want to be fruitful, they want to walk in increase, they want God's blessings...but either they just sit and wait for it to happen (often doesn't), or they get mad when nothing happens."

BELOVED: It is up to us! We must keep the clutter out of our hearts...

Proverbs 4:20-23

- 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
 23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence;** for out of it are the issues of life.

Hebrews 12:1 – "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

BELOVED: We must guard our hearts...watch what we allow to take over our passions...our attention!

If things sneak in...we must be diligent about cleaning them out...laying it aside!
 (perhaps talk about the pile of rocks next to prepared fields)

What Does it Mean to Be Fruitful?

I believe there are two meanings when it comes to bearing fruit in your life.

FIRST: The fruit of the born-again spirit.

Galatians 5:22,23

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

IN OTHER WORDS: When you start allowing the clutter of the world to enter your hearts...you will see a lot of the FRUIT that you should be manifesting missing. You will start acting like the world.

Instead of patience...you will get rude and ornery.

Instead of joy...you will get angry or even perversely funny.

So we need to de-clutter so we can allow room for this fruit to flourish.

SECONDLY: The fruit of blessings that God has ordained for His kids.

Healing, prosperity, peace, favor, etc.

These are things that the child of god should be manifesting.

Psalms 1:3 – "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

THEREFORE: When we get cluttered up in our hearts...we will NOT manifest the things that God said we should be manifesting.

Yes, we can even sow seed...we can even confess Scriptures...but if our heart is cluttered with the things of the world...we will watch our blessings slip away.

God did NOT call us to be MEDIOCRE...we are called to be different and live different!

REAL QUICK: This doesn't mean that if you have a clear heart that you won't have battles... Anyone who has ever grown a garden knows the challenges that come with it (weather, animals, time, weeds, etc.)

BUT it means that you will see the other side of the battle and see the victory.

Is it Really Important to be Fruitful?

I can kinda hear some minds out there: "Well, Pastor Thad, I like how I am living...I go to church...I consider myself a Christian...is it really that important that I am manifesting fruit?"

Matthew 7:15-20

- 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.
- 16 ***Ye shall know them by their fruits.*** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
- 17 Even so every **good** (healthy) tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
- 18 ***A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,*** neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
- 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit ***is hewn down, and cast into the fire.***
- 20 ***Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.***

John 15:8 – "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

John 15:1 – "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."

If God is describing Himself as a gardener...then I think if you are HIS...you will bear fruit.

Genesis 1:28,29

- 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
- 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

BELOVED: We are created to BEAR FRUIT! If you are not bearing fruit...you are missing the very purpose of your existence!

BELOVED: It isn't just KINDA important to bear fruit...it is ESSENTIAL to bear fruit.

John 15:16 – "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.***"

We Must De-clutter our Soil

HONESTLY: This is a constant effort to keep our soil clean. My mom would tell us that EVERY YEAR her job was to walk through the fields and find new rocks that worked their way to the surface.

NOTE: Our gardens at our house are made up of large rocks that we accumulated throughout the years that worked their ways up to the surface. They were not there last year, but they are there now!

Mark 4:13-20 (possibly read) – The parable of the soils.

We have read this parable time and time again...so we are pretty familiar with it. We know there are four types of soil.

OUR GOAL is the FOURTH TYPE of soil...no clutter! We are free to see his heavenly provision in our lives (healing, abundance, miracles, power, etc.), plus we are acting like Him.

HOWEVER: it is not the only type of soil...it is our choice.

REAL QUICK: Every type of soil has the same potential...but it all depends on what you allow in your soil or what you allow to happen to your soil that makes the difference.

FIRST SOIL: Has potential to be good...but is HARD, not WORKABLE...seed can't get in, therefore the enemy has a field day with it and that type of heart cannot manifest any types of harvest.

BELOVED: I trust that there is no one here today that fits this category...if there is, then you just need to turn your life over to the gardener and let Him do His thing in your life.

What are we left with? *The two middle soils:*

The key to both of these soils is that they are both extremely similar to the fourth type of soil... they have been prepared for seed...they are ready, but they differ because they've got stuff in the soil...clutter! Junk! Things that need to be removed.

Those things may not seem like much...but they will keep them from enjoying all of the harvest they should be seeing.

The sad part is...most Christians live in these middle soils. They are born-again...the love the Lord...yet they live fruitless lives.

Types of Clutter

1.) Battles and Persecution.

Mark 4:16-17

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

NOW: Understand...we all have battles and persecutions...so battles and persecutions are not bad.

What makes them clutter is when your focus...your attention is consumed with them. You fail to do anything else, because of the battles that you are facing.

Psalm 23:5 – “***Thou preparest a table before*** me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

BELOVED: If all you see are the enemies...your heart is cluttered with the battles. God has prepared AWESOME stuff for you...you can't just be focused on the battles.

THINK of the children of Israel in the wilderness...all they had the manifested presence of God leading them and lighting their way...yet all they focused on was the battle.

Job 30:13 (**AMP**) – Job actually refers to his situation as clutter in his life.

It was doing EXACTLY what it was suppose to do...get Jobs eyes off of God's provision and power!

2.) Cares of This World!

Mark 4:19 – “***And the cares of this world,*** and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”

(**AMP**) Cares and anxieties of this world...

BELOVED: You cannot walk in faith and be worried at the same time. Faith and fear can not co-exist.

We need to come to grips with worry and fear and drive it out of our lives.

BELOVED: The enemy works hard to keep us distracted by anxiety and fear so that we lose sight of the solutions...the Giver...the Gardner.

Maybe you come from a family of worriers...it is a family tradition! Beloved, it is clutter! It is a generational curse to keep you from your harvest.

1 Peter 5:7 – “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

BELOVED: When anxieties try to come on us, because of what is going on around us... we must cast them on HIM and keep them off of us!

Matthew 6 warns us about anxious thoughts. Like what are we gonna eat, what are we going to wear, what are we going to drink?

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 tells us to TAKE 'EM CAPTIVE! Don't let them run amuck!

You must be diligent to fight anxious thought!

3.) Distractions of the Age.

Mark 4:19 (**AMP**) – “Then the cares and anxieties of the world and ***distractions of the age***, and the pleasure and delight and false glamour and deceitfulness of riches, and the craving and passionate desire for other things creep in and choke and suffocate the Word, and it becomes fruitless.”

Proverbs 15:14 – “The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.”

“Feedeth on foolishness” – (AMP) – a fool feeds on folly

“Folly” – silliness

Worldly entertainment takes place of fellowship with the Father. It becomes clutter. It is fine to enjoy life...enjoy a movie...tv shows...sporting events...etc.

HOWEVER: When it steal time from your relationship...it has become clutter!

ILLUSTRATION: It is okay to have a junk drawer...but when it takes over your house... you've missed the mark!

4.) **Deceitfulness of Riches...lust of other things.**

Mark 4:19 – “And the cares of this world, and **the deceitfulness of riches**, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”

(AMP) – “...and the pleasure and delight and false glamour and deceitfulness of riches...”

Boy, oh, boy...I could write chapters on this.

- “If I only had more money...I would be happy.”

- “Money is my answer to life.”

- “Money is number one.”

BELOVED: That is deceitfulness of riches!

1 Timothy 6:10 – The love of money is the root of all evil.

Luke 12:15 – “And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

Luke 6:38 – give

Galatians 6:7 – sow

Matthew 6:33 – kingdom minded

EXTRA POINT: One of the things that we love in our body of believers is understanding and walking in covenant relationships. What we know about covenant is that your focus CANNOT be on yourself...but must be on the other person!

ILLUSTRATION: Our two tribes...if they get inward focused, they will start holding back from taking care of the other tribe...and leave holes in their defense or causing the other tribe to be hungry for more (therefore, pulling them out of covenant).

BELOVED: When we get too focused of what WE WANT, WE DESIRE, WE THINK...we are missing the power of covenant. It becomes CLUTTER IN YOUR HEART that will stop the flow of fruitfulness.

The **KINGDOM OF GOD** and PROSPERITY is ABSOLUTELY NOT about self...it is about giving. Never forget that!

Gotta Clean it Out

We must work on de-cluttering our hearts...keep them ready for the Word...keep them soft and ready to obey.

AGAIN: 1.) If was easy everyone would be doing it; 2.) It really isn't a onetime thing...it is constant.

Two simple points to focus on...

1.) *The Word, which builds our faith!*

Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Psalm 1:2 tells us our delight should be in the law of the Lord...then we will bring forth fruit.

John 1:2,3

- 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
- 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

BELOVED: Keep the Word going into your life. Read it, hear it, speak it!

- When battles arise...get in the Word.
- When your schedule gets real busy...get in the Word.
- When finances are tight...get in the Word.
- Whatever the clutter that gets put in your garage...get in the Word.

NOW...here is real important. When you are in the Word...*it builds your faith.* It increases your faith and begins filling your life with other essential things.

2 Peter 1:3-8

- 3 According as his divine power ***hath given unto us*** all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
- 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
- 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, **add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;**

This begins telling us what we need to be adorning our lives with:

Diligence in the Word brings FAITH...

- a.) As your faith is exercised it brings VIRTUE...
(moral goodness; excellence; doing right things)
(AMP) – “Christian energy” (acting like a Christian)
- b.) As you do what a Christian does you will add knowledge.
Understanding, or experience (you will learn why it is so important)
- 6 And to ***knowledge temperance***; and to ***temperance patience***; and to ***patience godliness***;
- c.) Working knowledge add self-control.
You will work at continuing to work the things you know and keep your flesh under control. The fruit of the spirit will be easier to flow in your life.
- d.) Self-control will add patience.
“Patience” – constancy; stick-to-it;
BELOVED: If this was easy, you wouldn’t need a re-born spirit to bring it to pass.
- e.) When your patience shows up add godliness.
This is really a BIG Word that deserves more time...but when it comes down to it you will find important what God finds important. Listening to His calling, His direction, His plans.
- 7 And to ***godliness brotherly kindness***; and to ***brotherly kindness charity***.
- f.) As godliness builds then add kindness or goodness.
This is the word Philadelphia...this means connect yourself to others... brothers and sisters.
- g.) And when brotherly kindness takes root you add the God kind of love.
Agape! Deep...consistent love.

2 Peter 1:8 - "**For if these things be in you**, and abound, **they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2.) **Focus on His presence.**

What better way to stay uncluttered than to hang out with the gardener.

Psalm 1:3 – The Gardener is the One Who knows where we need to be planted...and He is the One Who knows what is keeping us from producing.

So we need to hang with Him...at all times. He is the ONE that will reveal to us when things are choking out what He is trying to do.

Time in prayer.

Time in worship.

Time in intimacy.

Talk to Him, Love on Him!

John 15:1, 4-7

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Yes, this does set a focus on the Word...not arguing.

HOWEVER: It also presents the picture of intimacy...staying put. Abiding!

Here is the thing...when you abide in Him...stay in Him...He will reveal things to you that you need to know. He will reveal thing to you that are stopping you.

God reveals Himself to His friends (John 15:15)...which brings fruit.

THINK of Abraham...he was identified as a FRIEND of God

(Isaiah 41:8, James 2:23)...God told him stuff and he obeyed...HE BORE FRUIT.

God spoke to Jeremiah and said:

Jeremiah 33:3 – "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

YES, God wants us in His Word...not arguing that!

BUT (possibly even more than that) He wants intimacy...conversation...relationship with us!

YES, the Word is important! Essential! Foundational!

There are a lot of people who are theologically brilliant and don't know the THEO of the OLOGY!

We need to know Him.