

Mark 12:1

by Chuck Smith

God desires to enjoy the fruit of His people, and He is seeking a deep and spiritual love, the agapas, which is produced by living a life of love and obedience to Him.

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1

Topics: "Bearing Fruit", "Agape Love"

Description

Chuck Smith emphasizes the parable of the vineyard in Mark 12:1, illustrating God's desire for His people to bear fruit, particularly love. He draws parallels between the vineyard and Israel, highlighting the rejection of God's prophets and ultimately His Son, Jesus Christ. The sermon stresses that the church is now entrusted with the vineyard, and the fruit God seeks is agape love, which transcends physical and emotional love. Smith warns against the works of the flesh that hinder the flow of love within the congregation, urging believers to return to their first love and produce the fruit of the Spirit.

Transcript

Bring Forth Fruit

I. Parable of the vineyard.

A. Immediately in their minds they would associate this with

Isaiah 5. "For the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the house of Israel."

1. The parable in Isaiah 5 is the vineyard that had been given every advantage and benefit, yet it failed to produce good grapes, only wild grapes.

2. The vineyard was thus to be neglected and trodden down.

B. Here again is the vineyard this time it was let out to husbandmen while the Lord was in a far country.

1. He sent back His servant that he might reap the fruit of the vineyard, and they beat him.
2. A second servant was sent and they cast stones at him.
3. And all that were sent were abused by those who had been left in charge of the vineyard.
4. Last of all He sent His own beloved Son, saying, "Surely they will reverence Him." But they said this is the heir, let us destroy Him and the vineyard will be ours. Jesus asked what will the Lord of the vineyard do?
5. He will destroy the husbandmen, and give the vineyard to others.

C. Jesus then quoted from the psalm that the disciples had just quoted from two days earlier as He made His entry into Jerusalem on the donkey. Psalm 118, "The stone that the builders rejected is become the head of the corner."

D. In the parable the vineyard is Israel, the husbandmen are the religious leaders, and the Lord seeking fruit is God. The servants are the prophets, and of course the Son is Jesus Christ.

II. The other husbandmen that the vineyard is to be let out to is His church.

A. The desire of the Lord is the same, He desires to enjoy the fruit of the vineyard.

B.

In John 15 where he gives the analogy of the vine and the branches He said,

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

JOH 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

JOH 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

JOH 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and [that] your joy might be full.

JOH 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

JOH 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

JOH 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

C.

Quite obvious the fruit that the Lord is seeking is love. The agapas.

1. Agapas is a word almost coined for the New Testament to describe a love that is beyond the ordinary.

2. Man exists on three planes, body, soul, and spirit.

He thus loves on three planes. Physical, emotional, spiritual.

a. The most shallow plane is the physical, thus the eros or physical love is the most shallow of all.

b. The emotional plane is deeper thus the phileo is deeper than the eros.

c. Love on the spiritual plane is the deepest love

of all, this is the love that God has for you

and desires to receive from you.

D. When a new word is coined in a language, it is necessary to

define the word.

1.

There are two places in the New Testament where the

word agape is defined.

a. I Cor.13

1CO 13:4 Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not;

charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

1CO 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not

easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

1CO 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

1CO 13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things

endureth all things.

1CO 13:8 Charity never faileth:

b. Galatians 5

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

GAL 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2.

This is what God was seeking from the nation of

Israel.

3. This is what Jesus is seeking as He has come to

commune with us today.

E. In the book of Revelation, John sees the vision of Jesus

walking in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks which are explained as the seven churches of Asia.

1. As Jesus addresses these churches beginning in chapter

2 He declares to the church of Ephesus, that they had left their first love. They were commanded to repent and to go back to their first works, or else He would remove the candlestick from its place.

2. He had come to the church seeking love, and He found the works continuing, but the love was gone.

III. Things that stop the flow of love in a congregation.

A. In Galatians 5, Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit which is love. These works of the flesh are contrary to love and stop the flow of love from your life.

1. Adultery, Satan so often lies and declares that this is true love.

a. The common line is that I don't love my husband or wife anymore, I don't think I ever really loved them, our marriage was a mistake from the beginning.

b. Look at the damage it does not only to your spouse but your children who interpret it as, "Daddy or mommy doesn't love us anymore." Whatever the case may be. And in a real sense, they are right, if you truly loved them, you would not put them through such pain, for your own personal pleasure.

2. Fornication, the line here is often let's make love, it

would be more accurate to declare let's indulge our
lusts.

a. This is love on the animal plane, the eros.

b. It is not a true love at all. If you truly
loved them you would marry them. It is taking
something valuable from someone without
commitment, or giving anything in value in
return.

3. Uncleaness, from the Greek word Akatharsia, the word
catharsis is to cleanse, put the negative prefix a in
the front, and you have uncleaness. This is usually in
a moral sense.

4. Lasciviousness Debauchery, sexual excess, absence of
restraint, insatiable desire for pleasure. Self
centered, not concerned for what it might do to others.

5. Idolatry. That is allowing something else to take the
supreme place in your heart and life other than Jesus
Christ. The first commandment was, "Thou shalt have no
other gods before Me. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength."

6. Witchcraft (pharmakia) Use of drugs to come to an
altered state of consciousness.

7. Hatred

8. Variance. Strife

9. Emulations which is envy or jealousy.

10. Wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders,
drunkenness, revellings, and such like.

11. These are all contrary to true love, and stop the flow of true love.

B. These are called the works of the flesh, in contrast to the fruit.

1. Whenever you get into the flesh, you are in the realm of works.

a. The Lord is not interested in coming to a factory with all the clanging and banging, the whirring of engines, to examine how much product is coming out.

b. He is wanting to come to His garden to relax and enjoy the beauty and the fruit.

c. Some churches are like factories, may we always be a garden.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/mark-121/>

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