

Bay City Wesleyan Church
July 29, 2018

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Sunday Morning 07-29-2018

Jesus promised, "You will bear fruit, lots of fruit, lasting fruit." John 15:5

Let's pray at 1:55 PM daily to see Jesus producing fruit in and through us.

<http://bible.com/events/452849>

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[Image]

Claiming the promise in 2018

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/152x152/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1514675144006.jpg>

The Promise:

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

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Series: Learning to Live with Jesus

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Little things, like listening to someone, talking with them, working with them, and giving to them, build growing relationships. This is true of all relationships - even your relationship with Jesus. So, this series focuses on "Learning to Live with Jesus" through Bible reading, prayer, service, and generosity.

Philippians 4:10-19 NIV

<small>10</small> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <small>11</small> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <small>12</small> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <small>13</small> I can do all this through him who gives me strength. <small>14</small> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <small>15</small> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <small>16</small> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <small>17</small> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <small>18</small> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from

Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19</small> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/php.4.10-19.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Genuine generosity gives with no expectation of return.

Genuine generosity reflects God's grace. God gives his love to you regardless of how you respond. He does not bless you to buy your love. He loves you because he is love. Love is his makeup. The more you accept Jesus's love the more natural genuine generosity will become for you.

What sets genuine generosity apart from other ways of giving?

1. Genuine generosity is a sign of real faith.
2. Genuine generosity is inspired by hope.
3. Genuine generosity is filled with the freedom of love.
4. Genuine generosity cannot be measured in amounts, percentages or any other way.

Genuine generosity gives with no expectation of return.

This world's economy rises and falls on the idea of exchange. If you give me something of value, then you expect to receive something of value in return.

But the economy of Jesus's Kingdom is based on generous grace - giving without expecting a return of any kind. The economy of his Kingdom moves toward no exchange of goods. In God's Kingdom, your primary motivation grows out of love for Jesus and for the people he loves.

Learning to live with Jesus demands an alteration to your motivation.

Jesus's love has the first and the last word in everything we do. (See 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 The Message)

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your son, Jesus, who is the giver and the gift and the ultimate vision of what giving truly means.

We're tied up by our expectations, whether it's for a return on our investment or our own self-interest or accumulating the favor of others by doing favors for them.

We want to give freely. We long to give with genuine generosity.
Open our broken souls and mend our motivations. Empty us of all but your
amazing love.

Holy Spirit, do the miraculous in us until Jesus's love has the first and
last word in everything we do.

We pray in Jesus name, Amen.