

Bay City Wesleyan Church
November 18, 2018

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Sunday Morning 11-18-2018

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/516232>
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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)

Psalm 66:1-10 MSG

<small>1-4</small> All together now—
applause for God! Sing songs to the tune of his glory, set glory to the
rhythms of his praise. Say of God, "We've never seen anything like him!"
When your enemies see you in action, they slink off like scolded dogs.
The whole earth falls to its knees— it worships you, sings to you, can't
stop enjoying your name and fame. <small>5-
6</small> Take a good look at God's wonders— they'll take your
breath away. He converted sea to dry land; travelers crossed the river on
foot. Now isn't that cause for a song? <small><font
color="#999999">7</small> Ever sovereign in his high tower, he
keeps his eye on the godless nations. Rebels don't dare raise a finger
against him. <small>8-12</small> Bless our
God, O peoples! Give him a thunderous welcome! Didn't he set us on the
road to life? Didn't he keep us out of the ditch? He trained us first,
passed us like silver through refining fires, Brought us into
hardscrabble country, pushed us to our very limit, Road-tested us inside
and out, took us to hell and back; Finally he brought us to this well-
watered place.

<https://bible.com/bible/97/psa.66.1-10.msg>

Mark 12:41-44 NIV

<small>41</small> Jesus sat down opposite
the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting
their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large
amounts. <small>42</small> But a poor
widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few
cents. <small>43</small> Calling his
disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put
more into the treasury than all the others. <small><font
color="#999999">44</small> They all gave out of their wealth; but
she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."
<https://bible.com/bible/111/mrk.12.41-44.NIV>

Today's message is the third and final part of the series FIRST.

What's first in your life? Whatever holds first place in your life matters deeply because the person or thing that's first for you will determine your destiny.

Many things and people compete to be first in our lives. But, whether it's WORK, FAMILY, or POWER; whether it's APPROVAL, CONTROL, or ACHIEVEMENT; whether it's INDEPENDENCE, DEPENDENCE, or POSSESSIONS, none of these things will provide the sense of meaning, purpose, value, security, and comfort we long for.

We tend to measure your comfort and security solely on your current circumstances. However, that's shortsighted. The cross was not the end of the story for Jesus.

Your current circumstances are not the end of your story. There's more to come. Whatever you face at this moment, it's not the end of your story. There is more to come. In fact, the best is yet to come.

Jesus calls us to seek his kingdom FIRST. We lean toward thinking he asks us for a more determined dedication to him and his work. We're off target. Jesus desires undivided devotion that surrenders all we are and will be to him in love. We need to ask the Spirit to give us the mindset of Jesus, so our actions will become more like his - filled with sacrificial servant love.

Descending to serve then ascending to be with Jesus is greater than attempting to ascend on my own only to descend with a thud.

To paraphrase Andy Stanley, "Generosity isn't about how much you have; it's about what you do with what you have."

Sermon in a Sentence:

The more you give the more you will give.

Two Kinds of Thinkers: Which One Are You?

On his podcast, Michael Hyatt says...

Over the years, I have noticed that there are two kinds of thinking:

Abundance Thinking and Scarcity Thinking. One leads to success, joy and fulfillment, while the other leads to failure, fear and discontent.

If you look behind the outcomes—in any area of life—you will see specific actions that caused them. But if you look beyond the actions, you will see the thoughts that gave birth to them.

<https://michaelhyatt.com/064-two-kinds-of-thinkers-podcast/>

2 Corinthians 8:5 NIV

5</small> And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.8.5.NIV>

2 Corinthians 8:10-11 NIV

10</small> And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. 11</small> Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.8.10-11.NIV>

2 Corinthians 9:5 NIV
5</small> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.9.5.NIV>

2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV
7</small> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.9.7.NIV>

2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV
8</small> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.9.8.NIV>

2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV
11</small> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/2co.9.11.NIV>

Will you join me to commit to practicing generosity in every area of your life?