

Divine Worship

Luke 13.6-9 “Expectation of Fruit”

Preparation

Silent Meditation

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” **John 15.16**

Call to Worship

Psalm 67.1-4

Leader:

God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us...

People:

That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

Leader:

Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.

All:

Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
For You shall judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations on earth.

Hymn of Praise

Take My Life and Let It Be, vv. 1-3, Frances R. Havergal

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King,
Take my lips and let them be

Filled with messages from Thee.
Filled with messages from Thee.

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

Lord Jesus, we come today, offering our praise, our thanks, our witness, and ourselves, that we might see You in Your glory, hear You in Your Word, and be filled with Your Spirit. As we come to You, Lord, we want to be clean of all sin and pleasing to You, so we pause before You now to listen for Your Spirit, as He searches the depths of our soul, and to confess and repent of whatever He may convict us of in the silence. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Leader:

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,
But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy,
Because of Your truth. Psalm 115.1

We thank You, heavenly Father, that through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have forgiven our sins, and by Your Word and Spirit, You have cleansed us from all unrighteousness. We rejoice in Your forgiveness and cleansing, Lord, and ask You to **receive our praise, as we sing to You:**

All (singing together Psalm 115.9-13 to the tune of Plainfield, [Nothing but the Blood of Jesus](#)):

All who trust in Jesus yield – ever to His Name be glory! –
find in Him their help and shield – ever to Your Name be glory!
O Israel, trust the Lord! He helps us evermore!
Fear Him obey His Word: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Blessings from our gracious Lord – ever to Your Name be glory –
will attend us evermore – ever to Your Name be glory!
Bless all who fear You, Lord, all who obey Your Word,
all who Your Name adore: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer.**

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Psalm 67

(Tune: Solid Rock: [My Hope is Built on Nothing Less](#))

O bless us, Savior, by Your grace,
And shine upon us with Your face,
That we Your way may loud proclaim
And tell to all the earth Your fame!
Refrain
Let all the peoples praise You, Lord,

Rejoicing in Your holy Word!
Rejoicing in Your holy Word!

Let all the nations gladly sing
And joyous praise before You bring;
You judge them by Your holy worth
And guide the nations of the earth.

Refrain

The earth in full its bounty yields –
The blessed harvest of the fields –
We gather blessings from Your Word
That all the earth may fear You, Lord.

Refrain

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the **Leader shall pray**:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying the Apostles' Creed**);

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

The Ministry of the Word

Luke 13.6-9

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it.

Leader:

It is a consistent teaching of the Gospel that those who come to true saving faith will show the fruit of that faith in lives of good works. Let's consider just a few passages (have someone read each):

Matthew 5.14-16

John 15.1-4

James 2.14-26

Let's be clear: We're not saved *by* good works, but we're not saved *without* them.

This is what Jesus wants us to see in Luke 13.6-9. Those in whom Jesus expects to see fruit, but who bear no fruit in their lives, will wither like the fig tree Jesus cursed in Matthew 21.18, 19. Jesus expects His followers to bear fruit. Let's ask three questions concerning this expectation.

First, what is *required* for a follower of Jesus to bear fruit?

1. Read Matthew 13.37: What is the *Source* of all fruitfulness?
2. Psalm 1.3: What *creates* such fruitfulness?
3. John 6.63: How does fruit *come to life* in us?

Let's summarize the *requirements* for fruitfulness.

Second, let's ask this: By what *process* do we bear fruit?

1. John 15.1-4: What does it mean to *abide* in Jesus?
2. Philippians 2.12: How do we *work out* our salvation in fruitfulness?
3. 1 Corinthians 3.5-7: To Whom must we look for all fruitfulness?

Let's summarize the *process* whereby we become fruitful in the Lord.

Finally, let's ask: What *kinds of fruit* is Jesus expecting to see in us?

1. Galatians 5.22, 23
2. 1 Corinthians 13.4-7
3. 1 John 5.1-3
4. Acts 1.8

Let's summarize the *kinds of fruit* Jesus is seeking in us.

Jesus is expecting us to bear fruit. We are both the unfruitful fig tree of Luke 13.6-9 and the diligent keeper of the orchard.

We do not want our faith to wither because of unfruitfulness; and we do not want to be cast away from Jesus because He does not find in us the fruit He expects. He has saved us and called us to bear fruit. He has taken away the obstacle of sin by His own life, death, and resurrection. He has given us His Word to equip us for

every good work. And His Spirit indwells us and is working to make us fruitful unto the likeness of Jesus Christ. Let each of us consider what Jesus' expectation requires of us.

Meditate in silence on the teaching of Luke 13.6-9.

All (sharing):

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment **[“Take My Life and Let It Be,”](#) vv. 4-6, Frances R. Havergal**

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Benediction

Leader:

May the LORD give you increase more and more,
You and your children.
May you *be* blessed by the LORD,
Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 115.14, 15

All:

We will bless the Lord
From this time forth and forevermore. Psalm 115.18

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