

*Just finished up a revival last week with Jon Duff in Sarasota Florida - Had a tremendous time and God really helped us - Jon has been there is Sarasota for little over 7 months now and He said something to me that really triggered this lesson this morning - He said **"I wish I would have seen more genuine conversions while I was in Prescott"***

The need for every man here this morning is to be personally fruitful - Especially if you feel the call to preach the gospel some day- you desperately need to be personally involved in evangelism and see conversions in your own life.

John 15:16

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.

I. GODS CALL

A. The Potential of Gods choosing: **Begins in salvation**

1. This was a complete turning from your old life of sin- beginning a new life
 - a) Jewish conversion b) John the baptist applied to the KOG: repent! change your actions/ mind about sin
2. Gods ultimate desire is **conversion** of this world
 - a) People don't just need to go to church - they need to be saved/ born again
 - b) The gospel message is not an invitation for religious people to have a different kind of spiritual experience- it is an invitation to the lost and dying to be born again- transformed

Luke 5:32 *I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."*

Mark 2:17 *On hearing this, Jesus told them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

Matthew 18:11 *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*

3. **Converts are easy to identify:** Not some difficult mystery to try and work out
 - a) A person who **leaves their sin**, falls in love with Jesus/ wins their friends and family to Jesus/ is excited to be in the presence of God / becomes a disciple and want to be who we are

B. The Power of Gods Choosing

1. God would choose you is an incredibly powerful thing
 - a) We can be honest about ourselves - we have flaws/ issues / insecurities / things we are trying to work on
2. Gods choosing is not a mistake
 - a) He does not make mistakes / does not change His mind /

Romans 11:29—29 *For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]*

3. Gods Choosing is life changing
 - a) Men Jesus called into the Ministry - they left everything behind

Matthew 4:20 *They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

- b) Men will leave careers/ job opportunities/ cut ties to old relationships - in pursuit of Gods choosing

C. Making up your mind

1. Jesus Choosing demands our obedience
 - a) Jesus can choose us but we must be willing to obey and follow what God has called us to do

Matthew 19:21—22 *Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

2. Problem for some: Calling is one of many options we could pursue in life
 - a) Keeping all your options open just in case option "A" doesn't work out.
3. Jesus Choosing has a purpose
 - a) Jesus is offering us an opportunity for our lives to make a difference and impact lives for all eternity
 - b) What else could compare to that / what material possession could you acquire that would be more valuable than an eternal soul

II. THE NEED FOR FRUITFULNESS NOW

A. The Danger: The Fruitless disciple

1. Calling to preach the Gospel Means you want to pastor: *Either in pioneering or taking over another mans work*
 - a) In either situation - a healthy church can only grow through conversions
 - b) Pioneering - you are handing out the fliers/ witnessing to people/ following up / working with NC
2. If you are not fruitful now it will be difficult to be fruitful in the future

- a) Guys can have this idea - when I get sent out then I will be **fruitful/ devoted** in prayer/ **read** my bible more - P. Greg "Ministry magnifies" **same lines** "you become a larger version of your self when you get out on the field"
- b) This can be the temptation - if I have people in my church then thats success - if you have a church full of religious psychos - thats not success.
- 3. We settle for less than Genuine conversions
 - a) You cannot build a church with religious people / crazy people / VDP "very demanding people"
 - (1) Having a religious person come to church with you is not the same as winning a convert for Jesus
 - (2) Getting a religious person to say a prayer with you is not the same as conversion
 - b) Religious people coming to your church will frustrate you because they are not what we are/ they will hinder and hurt you / they will cause you to waste time and money/ they will rip off and influence any potential converts that do come.
 - c) **Conversion by osmosis** - that some day eventually they will get it and come around / I text them and call them before every service for the past 6 months and they barely come around - they are a corpse// move along - thee is no life there.

B. Jesus shows us what our expectation should be in His Choosing of us

1. Bear Fruit

John 15:16 *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.*

- a) At the moment you are saved your life should be influencing other people to follow Jesus
- b) If you are called to preach you must be fruitful - **not corporately fruitful** but **personally fruitful**

2. Bearing Much Fruit

John 15:8—8 *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

- a) Same chapter Jesus also says you should bear much fruit - this is an ongoing dimension

3. Fruit that Remains

- a) The people you win for Jesus and become converts will become a reference point for you down the road
- b) IF you are fruitful now then you can have a confidence that down the road where every God will take you in ministry you will be fruitful then.

III. GODS PROMISE

A. Our responsibility in fruitfulness

- 1. To be a disciple you must be a thinker: Ask the question - "*is my life personally fruitful*"
 - a) IF the answer is no - then what are you going to do about it?
- 2. Have to seek God for a breakthrough dimension in the area of fruitfulness
 - a) You have to learn how to lay hold of God for yourself
 - (1) Begins in prayer / taking God at his word / claiming Gods promise of fruitfulness for your life

John 15:16 *that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

3. Make conversions a priority in your own life

- a) If this is important to God then it must also be important to us - consuming passion

B. Gods Promise is that He has Appointed us - we have access to his supernatural power for conversions

- 1. You have to believe in God's power to save/convert people
 - a) Critical dimension: You have to believe in Gods promise and ability to save people- Conversion distinctive - The potential of every disciple is fruitfulness in conversions
- 2. You have to allow God to save/convert people
 - a) We want to rush/demand that people change - because we don't believe or trust God
 - b) God is better at conversion than your are- we cannot save/ change people
- 3. You have to fight for conversions
 - a) You pray to come into contact with people who can be converted
 - b) You fight for people in prayer: Pray them through/fight the devil off them/ pray God gives them revelation