

August 19th 2007: Fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22-26

He was sitting on the edge...main road out of Jericho.....when he heard that Jesus he was blind.....destitute....alone

But he had a voice.....Began crying out.....Son of Man have mercy

Others told him to shut up.....But he kept.....because he wanted so much.....

Jesus heard blind Bartimaeus.....had him brought.....asked him this question

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU ?

- **This morning.....Ask yourself that question**
- Then think of just 3 things.....you want more than anything else in the world

It is quite likely.....YOUR 3 chief desires.....fall into one or more these groups

→What you want to have:→Possessions.....health.....Settlement of some issue/problem..

→ you want to do.....achieve.....overcome....reach after.....succeed at

→ you want to be.....terms of character....type of person

As a young man.....My emphasis.....Wanted to have

Little oldermore what I wanted to do

In recent years.....more.....what I want to be

It's interesting to recall.....when young King Solomon.....asked by God

What would you like me to give you?

He asked for a quality of character:::::*Give me the wisdom I need !!!*

I think God would want.....at least one.....to do with character

For according to Romans 8:29 God's grand purpose for us

"...that we should become like His Son" (Rom 8:29 Good News Bible)

- **Think then how glad our Lord would be**

If we responded to that question put by Jesus:

WITH

What I want you to do for me, Lord, is to make me a loving, joyful, peaceable, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, disciplined Christian.

RECOGNIZE THEM ?????? **Nothing less than the fruit of the Spirit**

But I for one.....look at that statement.....and think.....What a forlorn hope!!!!

It's not that I don't want to be like that.....**but I know me**

- And I'm sure most of you feel the same

We look at the list.....too often we see the opposite

LOVE, JOY, PEACE ?

Cold and unconcerned, moody and gloomy, worried and quarrelsome

PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS ?

Bad-tempered and irritable, unfriendly and unhelpful, mean and evil

FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL ?

Unreliable and disloyal, ill-mannered and harsh, slack and undisciplined

There's a stubborn spirit in each of us.....which at times comes to the fore

(Mark Twain talking about honesty.....)

We don't always do the right thing.....do we !!!!

But the Good news is.....What we have here.....is the fruit of the Spirit

- **Turn back to Galatians 5**

This whole letter is really aboutLiving by Grace

It's not about us keeping a heap of rules

But us allowing God to live a new life through us.

- **So when in chapter 5**.....Paul presents two lists of contrasting behaviour

The first.....19-21..... what happens when you don't have Christ

And the Second.....22-26..... what happens when you do have Christ as boss of

He talks about the acts or works..... → **But the fruit**.....

(When I was a child Christmas morning was always special

I knew.....wake up to find.....a pillow case.....Always contained an orange

The gifts were in many ways a thank you.....and an encouragement

.....I can't remember what the gifts were.....Always remember that orange...Fruit)

What part of the fruit..... do you want most in your life today

For God the Spirit.....promised to grow it within you

It won't be instant.....**It's a fruit**....**Fruit** does not grow overnight

It will need your cooperation.....in truly wanting it.....

But it's the Spirit in you....that will produce it

Imagine someone asks you to paint a huge building

You look at it....look inside yourself.....And it beyond you

You sadly shake your head.....and say you cannot do it

You have no paint....painting equipment....ladders.....And its so dirty and so huge

But they say.....You can do it because I will give you instructions for you to follow

And you will not need to provide anything.....I will provide.....

But surely you.....say.....You will have to wait so long

Some parts may be available for you to use fairly soon.....

but others.....LIFETIME

Yes....but you have a lifetime.....and I will be alongside to help you always

What room do you want to start with?

God the Spirit will grow in you the whole fruit of the Spirit

But where today do you want to start:

Need more **patience**....Pray & Practice

Need more **joy**.....Pray and practice thanksgiving

(STORY OF POLYCARP).....

Our name by not mean.....But the promise is.....

that if we look to God the Spirit.....and really want it....He will fill our lives too

Gradually but truly.....With the precious fruit of the HS in us.