

Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Fruit of Goodness”

Galatians 5:22-23, Luke 18:18-30

Sermon Series Title: “The Fruit of the Spirit”

Sermon Series Summary: In Christ, we have received new hearts and new life. With this new life, God bears the Fruit of the Spirit. It’s not something we do. It’s something that God grows within us through His Spirit.

Passage Setting: Luke is the first part of his two-book letter (Luke, Acts), focusing on the ministry of Christ and the early church. As a former physician, we see various details in this book that we don’t find in the other gospels. His main theme is a call for everyone to abandon our self-salvation and sin to trust in and follow Jesus.

Summary: Goodness is the holiness and righteousness of God manifested throughout a person’s being. This fruit requires us to live with integrity. We are to follow all of God’s commandments in all of its implications. Although this is impossible with man, it is possible with God through Christ, the ultimate Good Savior.

Central Truth: *“May the goodness of God through Christ flow into and out of our hearts.”*

Sermon Points:

1. The Source of Goodness
2. The Standard of Goodness
3. The Struggle of Goodness
4. The Good Savior

Opening Question:

1. How would you define goodness? Does this differ from the biblical definition of goodness?

(Answers may vary.)

We may have diluted the word, good. Good might mean great. Good might mean just ok. It all depends on context and tone. But I know that it’s not as good as awesome, amazing, gorgeous, etc.

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Goodness in Scripture means holiness, righteousness, and beauty. For us, it means that we live with integrity in all that we do. God is the source of all goodness to an exponential degree.)

After looking at the Fruit of Kindness last week, we will look at Goodness this week.

Read Galatians 5:22-23, Luke 18:18-30

1. What does the goodness of God mean to you? Do any Scripture passages come to mind when you're thinking about God's goodness?

(Answers may vary.)

We see that God is the One who is supremely good in Scripture. He is the standard of goodness. He is goodness' source. All goodness comes from him.

Some passages that speak of God's goodness:

1 Chronicles 16:34- Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 34:8- Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Nahum 1:7- The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

Genesis 1- "God saw that it was good." V. 31- "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.")

2. What is the struggle of the rich ruler? What is our struggle with this passage?

(There are two main struggles here, but I believe that they are very connected. The first struggle is that he believes he is righteous and holy. He has a superficial view of the law and has convinced himself that he has kept the Law faithfully. He believes he is righteous enough to inherit eternal life.

His second struggle is his idolatry of money. He chooses his money over Jesus, because he believes money can give him greater life and salvation than Jesus. Money is his sense of worth, pride, dignity, control, and righteousness.

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Answers may vary. Being in America, we all struggle with money. It can become an idol and the place where we find our worth, pride, dignity, control, and righteousness. It has a sneaky and sinful way of making us feel like we're in control, we've earned it, and we have more worth than others.

But this is not just with money. It's with every idol. It's our way of finding validation, salvation, worth, dignity, and goodness. We make the judgment that our idol is better than our God. The origin in sin started by questioning God's goodness. It started by determining what was good and evil in our sight, instead of trusting in God's wisdom.

If someone like a respected, righteous, rich ruler cannot get into the kingdom, what hope is there for us? How can we possibly be saved? Any moral defect or idolatry will disqualify us from the kingdom of heaven.)

3. What is our hope, facing such impossible demands of goodness?

(V. 27 says that what is impossible with man is possible with God.

Our hope, facing such an impossible task of our salvation, is in Christ. He is the one who has been punished for our sin and unrighteousness. He took on the judgment for our idolatry. In Christ, we find our worth, dignity, and beauty. He counted the cost and gave up everything, to save us.)

Final Thoughts: *Only God is good. This means that if we truly believe Jesus to be good, then we must acknowledge that He is God who has come to save. We must confess that we are not good, and we need a Savior. And we are to trust that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to be that good Savior for us. And after experiencing the goodness of God in Christ, we are able to be good for His glory.*