

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.

"We are in our "Fruit of the Spirit" sermon series, and through this series, we see that our growth is not quantified by the works we accomplish but is defined by the fruit God's Spirit bears within us through His Son."

Call: Psalm 103:9

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

Title: "The Fruit of Goodness"

Next Week's Call: Psalm 103:10

Next Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23, John 12:1-8

Next Week's Title: "The Fruit of Faithfulness"

Future Calls: Psalm 103:10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18, 19, 20-22

Future Titles: "The Fruit of Gentleness" (Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Kings 5:1-14), "The Fruit of Self-Control" (Galatians 5:22-23, Genesis 39:1-12)

Fallen Condition Focus: We are not good, and we do not have integrity.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is our good savior who counted the cost to accomplish the ultimate good work of salvation.

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

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.

Reflective Questions:

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

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

- I. Introduction
  - A. Hook
  - B. Transition
  - C. Proposition
  - D. Points
- II. The Source of Goodness (vv. 18-19, 21)
  - A. Rich ruler- wealthy and powerful, maybe a member of the Sanhedrin, respected in the eyes of the people
    - 1. Riches are a sign of God's favor and blessing for obedience (Deut 28).
  - B. Good Teacher- it was given as a compliment but that is not all what Jesus is
  - C. What must I *do*...
    - 1. The rich ruler believes he can do enough to inherit eternal life.
    - 2. Combining the title with his question and response in v. 21, we know that he considers himself to be good and do enough good for eternal life.
    - 3. The passage right before shows us Jesus' teaching that calls for us to receive the kingdom like a child. The passages before that show us the heart of someone who is justified and saved- a Pharisee who is broken over his sin and a widow is a desperate for salvation. The ruler shows the exact opposite.
  - D. Dilution of the word good- God is good, all the time; good boy or girl; you look good; good job; good dog; food; embarrassing past?; wedding day- only good?; amazing/awesome/gorgeous/etc.
  - E. No one is good except God alone
    - 1. 1 Chron 16:34, Psalm 34:8, Nahum 1:7
  - F. Meaning- Holiness, righteous, beauty; living with integrity
  - G. God is the source of goodness
    - 1. Jesus is making a distinction that if the ruler truly means that Jesus is good, then he should acknowledge that He is God.
  - H. Genesis 1- God saw that it was good; pinnacle of creation- creation of man and woman, God saw that it was very good
    - 1. Image of God- goodness
- III. The Standard of Goodness (vv. 20, 22, 29-30)
  - A. Being good means that we keep the Moral Law (Ten Commandments) perfectly (v. 20)- commandments 5-9 from second table (loving neighbor) are listed here

1. The law is holy, righteous, and good (Romans 7:12).
  - B. The rich ruler believes he has kept them from when he was a child (v. 21).
    1. He does not have the proper view of the law- positive/negative, behavior/heart.
    2. Being good requires integrity- meaning faithfulness in all of life
  - C. Jesus does not talk about the first table, because he knows that the ruler is breaking them by not loving God, because money is his god.
  - D. Jesus addresses this in v. 22- to give away everything to the poor, have treasure in heaven, and follow Jesus.
    1. Only place in the Gospels where we see this
    2. Not a command for all believers since we see many wealthy, godly, blessed men in Scripture
    3. Nicodemus- being born again attacking his legalism, Samaritan woman- living water attacking her idolatry of men
    4. Jesus is attacking this man's god- money
    5. Money can easily be our god as well (worth, pride, dignity, control, and righteousness). Sneaky power to make us think that we earned it through our work, we are in control, we are good... better than others. Dignity and worth. Church parking lot. This is with every idol.
  - E. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him. This is a dying to our sin and our gods and living unto Him. This may even require a turning away from family (v. 29-30).
    1. Jesus is not calling us to actively betray and abandon our family. He does not teach that or do that. But we must be willing to count the cost.
- IV. The Struggle of Goodness (vv. 23-26, 28)
- A. Vv. 23-25- the young, rich ruler became very sad, because he couldn't let go of his god. It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle... because money is his god; he is making the decision that he believes money is better for him than God himself. He believes Jesus isn't worth the cost.
  - B. Genesis 3- questioning God's goodness, woman saw the fruit was good for food; man believed he is good himself to judge what is good
  - C. Creation- very good; Sin and idolatry are our attempts to find this goodness again, to hear these words from God again; ruler wants this validation; v. 28 is Peter's attempt to ask if he is good enough
  - D. The rich man- seemingly holy, righteous, blessed for his obedience; respected
  - E. If someone like that cannot be saved, who can be saved?
    1. We are all disobedient, unrighteous, unholy, ugly because of sin.

2. We all place ourselves on the throne of our hearts, judging what is good and bad. We try to stay in control, and we believe we are good enough.

V. The Good Savior (v. 27)

A. What is impossible with man is possible with God.

1. Salvation through works is impossible.
2. Salvation through the grace of God is possible.

B. Passage after- Jesus talks about His future humiliation, suffering, cross, and resurrection.

1. He is the One who will be punished as unholy and unrighteous to make us holy and righteous... and good.
2. He is the One who will be judged for our idolatries and self-salvation to be our Savior.
3. We have gods to have control and earn our worth. But Jesus took our place on the cross, to show us our worth.
4. "For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man." - John Stott
5. Jesus was condemned, being declared as guilty; so God can declare over us very good...
6. He is the One who will become ugly to make us beautiful... to present us in splendor, holy, without blemish on the last day.

C. Jesus is the ultimate young, rich, ruler who counted the cost. He was far wealthier than this man. Yet, He gave it all up to give to us and bring us into the kingdom of God. He was forsaken by His father, betrayed by His people... why? The rich ruler didn't believe Jesus was worth it. The ultimate rich ruler believed that we were worth it.