

## **BEARING GOOD FRUIT**

*"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."*

John 15:8

### **REFLECTION**

Growing up in urban Singapore, I only had the opportunity to see and enjoy the fruits from my uncle's durian trees (the few that was left) whenever I visited his home in Malaysia. He tends to his trees with great care such that his durians are always "bao jiak" (good quality). Not only is the harvest good, the quality of the fruits is excellent too! Furthermore, what joy anticipation we had whenever a visit from my uncle would mean a "fruit-full" galore (chikus, rambutans, pomelos and durians!).

Today's verse reminds us that we are to bear much fruit as Jesus' disciples. Paul teaches us in Gal.5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy *peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*". These are attributes that we should continually nurture in our lives and in our discipleship journey with our Lord. These are the anticipated evidence of a 'fruitful' disciple.

"*Being fruitful*" can also refer to people whom we have shared the gospel with - the ones we have impacted and made a difference in their lives. It is not enough being weekend Christians. God calls us to be His witness wherever He places us. Being a witness (the Great Commission) is not just for extraordinary Christians or missionaries, it is for everyone who believes in Jesus.

From the Great Commission Matt.28:20, we know and take comfort that Jesus Christ promises to be with us ALWAYS. And in the earlier verses in John 15, Jesus reminds us to abide in Him and He will abide with us and cause us to bear fruit (pruning included)!

May I invite you to surrender your will and life to God? When we abide in Him He will transform us continually so that we will bear fruit, no doubt as "bao jiak" (good quality) disciples who will glorify our Father in heaven!

### **PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, our Master Gardener and the True Vine, we thank You for Your call to each one of us to be Your disciples. You promise to be with us and You invite us to abide in You. It can be challenging to live out our lives as Christians in this upside down world. But, Lord, grant us wisdom and courage*

*to be Your witnesses and to bear much fruit and give glory to You! Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Take the time to pray for yourself. Ask the Lord, the Master Gardener to show you areas in your life that are lacking in 'fruitfulness'. Talk to God honestly about what may be hindering you and commit them to Him for 'pruning' so that they may be fruitful. Know that He is gentle and kind. Commit yourself to be faithful in what God has called you to do, and bear good fruit!
- Pray for Barker Road Methodist Church. Remember that we are a church on a hill to shine the light of Christ in Singapore and beyond! Pray that we may not be found lacking in bearing good fruits for the Lord.
- Pray for the nations facing crises - the pandemic and political unrest. Some youths in Myanmar with promising future have joined the resistance army to fight the military. Their plights continue even as news about them dwindle. Continue to pray for the Lord to have mercy and bring justice to the people in suffering.
- Give thanks to God for those who have been evacuated from Afghanistan. Pray for them to continue to be resilient as they settle into new surroundings and rebuild their lives. Pray for those who are still remain in Afghanistan. Pray for those who are uncertain of their future and don't know how to go about it. Pray that God would intervene and visit the people who are fearful with His peace.

*"Fruit-bearing involves cross-bearing.*

*There are no two Christs - an easy-going one for easy-going Christians, and a suffering, toiling one for exceptional believers.*

*There is only one Christ. Are you willing to abide in Him, and thus bear much fruit?"*

*James Hudson Taylor*

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:***

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