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Bearing Fruit for the Kingdom

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KEY VERSE
“Bear fruit worthy of repentance.” – Matthew 3:8.

READINGS
Psalm 15

Introduction

A tree is known by its fruit. No matter how tall or leafy it looks, its true value is revealed in what it produces. The same is true of our Christian lives. Being part of God’s Kingdom is not just about belief or appearance – it is about fruit-bearing. Our calling as believers is to reflect God’s character, live out our repentance, and bear the fruit of the Spirit so that the world may see Christ through us.This Sunday’s readings challenge us to consider the quality and authenticity of our spiritual fruit. They warn against spiritual pretence, urge us toward inner transformation, and call us to live lives rooted in righteousness, nourished by grace, and active in love.Let us now meditate on four spiritual lessons from today’s texts as we reflect on what it means to bear fruit for the Kingdom.

A Life that Dwells with God (Psalm 15)

“O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?” – Psalm 15:1. Psalm 15 opens with a probing question: Who can dwell in God’s holy presence? The answer given is not about religious rituals, but about righteous living – walking blamelessly, speaking truth, honouring the faithful, and doing no harm.This psalm reminds us that bearing fruit for the Kingdom begins with integrity and holiness. The root of our fruitfulness lies in our communion with God. If we want to bear good fruit, we must first dwell in the presence of the Lord with clean hands and pure hearts.Think of a mango tree planted in good soil and nurtured with care. It bears sweet fruit not just because it tries hard, but because its roots go deep and are well nourished. In the same way, a person rooted in God’s presence bears the fruits of truth, humility, and justice.We cannot bear Kingdom fruit if we live double lives or cultivate secret sins. Our external actions must be grounded in internal sincerity. As Psalm 15 says, the one who does these things “shall never be moved.”

Rooted by the Living Waters (Jer. 17:1–8)

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord… They shall be like a tree planted by water” (Jeremiah 17:7–8). Jeremiah contrasts two kinds of people: those who trust in man and those who trust in the Lord. The former are like shrubs in the desert – dry, fruitless, and alone. The latter are like trees planted by streams – green, vibrant, and fruitful even in drought.Fruit-bearing for the Kingdom depends on our trust in God. When we depend on ourselves or worldly support, we wither. But when we trust in God’s word, His promises, and His timing, we are sustained – even through crisis.During a severe drought in Maharashtra, some farms remained green while others turned to dust. Upon investigation, it was found that those few thriving fields were located near underground aquifers. The water was not visible – but it was there, and it made all the difference.Likewise, when we are rooted in God’s Word and His Spirit, we can flourish even in adversity. Trials may come, but our

leaves stay green. Let us ask: Are our lives connected to the living water of Christ? Are we drawing daily from His truth and love?

Fruit that Reflects the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23)

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”(Gal 5:22–23). Paul speaks of the fruit of the Spirit – nine beautiful qualities that characterize the life of someone led by the Holy Spirit. These are not just moral values – they are divine traits that grow in us when we surrender to God’s inner work.The world is full of talent, ambition, and influence – but God’s Kingdom is built on spiritual fruit. It is not how many sermons we preach, buildings we build, or positions we hold – but whether we reflect the Spirit of Christ in our daily interactions.A missionary in a remote tribal area once shared how the people could not understand his preaching, but they watched how he treated the children, how he prayed for the sick, how he gave food to the hungry. One tribal elder finally said, “Now we understand your God. We see Him in you.” That is fruit.Let us examine ourselves: Are these fruits visible in our lives? Are we growing in love and patience? Is the Holy Spirit actively forming Christ’s character in us? Let our lives be a witness to the Spirit’s transforming power.

Fruit Worthy of Repentance (Matt. 3:7–12)

“Bear fruit worthy of repentance… Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire” (Matthew 3:8,10). John the Baptist’s words are as fiery as his mission. He confronts religious leaders who relied on their heritage, not on repentance. His message is clear: Repentance must result in fruit – visible transformation, righteous actions, and holy living.God is not looking for empty words, shallow rituals, or inherited religion. He desires sincere repentance that leads to a changed life. Like trees in an orchard, we are evaluated by our fruit. If there is no fruit, there is no authenticity.A fruit seller was known to polish unripe apples to make them look appealing. But the customers soon discovered they were tasteless and hard. He lost trust and business. In the same way, a life that only looks spiritual on the outside, but lacks true fruit, cannot be part of God’s Kingdom work.We must bear fruit that shows we have turned from sin and are walking in newness of life. This includes acts of justice, mercy, forgiveness, and generosity. God’s Kingdom advances not through titles or traditions, but through lives truly transformed by grace.

Conclusion

To bear fruit for the Kingdom is not optional – it is essential. Jesus said, “By their fruits, you will know them” (Matthew 7:20). A faith that does not transform our character, our choices, and our relationships is a dead tree, however leafy it may appear.But the good news is this: God Himself makes us fruitful when we stay rooted in Him. He prunes us, waters us, and cultivates His Spirit in us. Our task is to dwell in His presence (Psalm 15), trust in His provision (Jeremiah 17), walk by His Spirit (Galatians 5), and live a life of true repentance (Matthew 3).Let us not only be trees planted – but trees producing. Let our homes, churches, and communities taste the fruit of our lives and glorify our Father in heaven.

Prayer

Gracious and loving God,We thank You for calling us to be part of Your Kingdom. You have planted us by Your streams of mercy, and we desire to bear fruit that honours You. Help us to dwell in Your presence with integrity. Teach us to trust in You and not in ourselves. Fill us daily with the fruit of

the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, and more.Lord, we repent of fruitless living and spiritual complacency. Make our lives fruitful with compassion, justice, and humility. Let our repentance be real, and our faith be visible.May we be known not by our words, but by our fruit. And may that fruit draw others to know Your goodness.In the name of Jesus Christ, the True Vine, we pray.

Amen.