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Series: Seed + Fruit

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## Opening Scripture:

[Psalm 1](#)

### 1) Centrality of Fruitfulness

#### **Genesis 1:20–28 NLT**

<sup>20</sup> Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” <sup>21</sup> So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

<sup>23</sup> And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.” And that is what happened. <sup>25</sup> God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

- The creation account moves in this building process to get to life which will be fruitful.
- Eventually God also clarifies that he wants a type of fruit. He wants fruit that reflects His GOOD CHARACTER and HIS KINGDOM.
  - Flourishing
  - Love
  - Harmony
  - Order
  - Truth

## 2) The Good Fruit of God's Wisdom and Word - Psalm 1

### Psalm 1 NLT

<sup>1</sup> Oh, the joys of those who do not  
follow the advice of the wicked,  
or stand around with sinners,  
or join in with mockers.

<sup>2</sup> But they delight in the law of the LORD,  
meditating on it day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank,  
bearing fruit each season.  
Their leaves never wither,  
and they prosper in all they do.

<sup>4</sup> But not the wicked!  
They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

<sup>5</sup> They will be condemned at the time of judgment.  
Sinners will have no place among the godly.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD watches over the path of the godly,  
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

## 3) True Fruitfulness is Abiding in Christ

### John 15 NLT

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may

ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!<sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

<sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.<sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.<sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!<sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.<sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.<sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.<sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.<sup>16</sup> You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.<sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.<sup>19</sup> The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.<sup>20</sup> Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.<sup>21</sup> They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me.<sup>22</sup> They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin.<sup>23</sup> Anyone who hates me also hates my Father.<sup>24</sup> If I hadn’t done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father.<sup>25</sup> This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures: ‘They hated me without cause.’

<sup>26</sup> “But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.<sup>27</sup> And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

Peter passages regarding forgetting and becoming unfruitful in our knowledge

## 4) Constantly Thinking on and Responding to the Promises

### **2 Peter 1:3–13 NLT**

<sup>3</sup> By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.<sup>4</sup> And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.

<sup>5</sup> In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,<sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,<sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

<sup>8</sup> The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

<sup>10</sup> So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.<sup>11</sup> Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught.<sup>13</sup> And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live.

# Looking at the cherry tree.

Incredible fruit. Yet various places that are old and dried out and unfruitful and needing to be pruned.

Returning to [John 15](#) and talking about discipline and pruning and tying that back to ...

...[Psalm 1](#): being influenced by the world cutting that off and instead of being influenced by God and his word becoming fruitful in the lighting in the word that God speaks

## Examine + Apply

### Last time in this series we asked:

1. Have we forgotten the purpose and priority of fruitfulness God always had?
2. What is the DNA of what you are doing right now? What does it reproduce in your own life? What does it reproduce in the lives of those around you? Is it good fruit?
3. If we as a community reproduce the “what” as well as the “how,” then what will those around you learn to live like by the way you live?
4. What is blocking multiplication in your life? What is blocking multiplication in our community?

### New Questions and Challenges:

1. What is God wanting to prune out of your life, so that you can be more fruitful?