

PASTOR'S PATCH



The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit.

a fig-tree

Mark chapter 11 verses 12-13

A few weeks ago, our pear tree was looking laden with fruit and the winds were starting to cause some to drop, so I climbed a ladder and picked two large bowlfuls, all but the smallest of pears (which I felt would not have been edible).

Then last week I noticed more pears were dropping down, some quite sizeable. So again I got out the ladder and climbed up to see if there were any pears to pick. To my surprise there were two more bowlfuls which were hidden among the leaves which I had failed to spot on the first occasion. The first picture shows the initial harvest and the second picture is the final harvest.

In Mark's gospel we see how Jesus went looking for fruit on the fig tree. However, He found none and cursed the tree so that it withered and died. Mark intended us to understand the clear message that God looks to His people to bear spiritual fruit, and He will spot it when it is there and be justly angry when it isn't.

However, my pear-picking experience teaches me that I don't always see all the fruit, it can be well-hidden under leafy branches. In spiritual terms, sometimes we have to look closely at our fellow believers and patiently search for the fruit that their lives are evidencing. Furthermore, my guess is that pretty much most of our fellow believers are bearing fruit which we can dismiss or fail to spot. What we need to do is look for it, point out the gifts that we see in others and delight in them. There's nothing like the encouragement we get when our church family highlight the gifts they see in us, and we do the same for them. Sometimes, we may not have even been aware of the fruitfulness ourselves.

CHALLENGE

Go fruit-spotting in the lives of your brothers and sisters in church, and don't be quick to write anyone off. Encourage and thank people verbally when you see gifts of thoughtfulness, insight, helpfulness, compassion or any Christlike fruits.

Darrell Holmes

**You are invited to our
"Know Your Bible"
Autumn Conference**

Saturday 19th October 2024

10:00am-2:30pm

Abi Willetts from Ichthus Fellowship, London
will be speaking on

"Changing World, Never Changing God"



At Upton Vale Baptist Church Hall,
Torquay TQ1 3HY

£8 to include tea, coffee and cake.

Please bring a packed lunch.

KNOW YOUR BIBLE AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Abi Willetts is an excellent speaker from
Ichthus Fellowship in London.

Please book your place by emailing

kybtorquay@gmail.com

or by phoning 01803 329526.

Jill Opie

KYB Torquay Coordinator