

Are We Hearing Their Cry?
Fruitopia, Part 4
Slide Notations

The Child's Cry... Who will cry for me? Who will hold me when I'm falling, catch my tears and call my name...? I am cold and hungry, all alone, someone's daughter, someone's son... Who will show me heaven's gates and heaven's mercy...? Is there a God who can reach me here? If you love Him, how can you walk away? I have my Father's eyes!

So Far...

1. Realize we're joined to Jesus, called to live in the land of Fruitopia, where we bear the fruit that glorifies God! I have glorified Your name on the earth: I have finished Your work! **J17.4**

2. Areas of life that do not produce fruit get cut off and burned! We're still saved, but not as developed, not as full, as we were destined to be! **1C3**

3. Pruning is what purges the unproductive areas of life so we can be productive! There are areas that get cut off, but they make way for more growth! **J15**

4. Lowered our gaze as we learned we must "fight" to serve the generations superseding us! "Parents eat sour grapes, kids pucker!" **Jeremiah 31** Must break the chains of bondage! **X20**

Fighting for them!

Must fight our own urges to self-serve, self- fulfill, self-direct! **Issue is Worship!** Fight to defeat self-confident (source), self-comfort (object) serving! **Issue is our boundaries!** Fight our flesh when we serve and it's not received/appreciated! **Issue is Maturity!** Must fight to answer their cries! **Issue is having the Heart of God!**

Warrior's? Serve Me (key) and I will accept you and receive your offerings and your first fruits, and I will accept you with your sweet savor and gather you and comfort you and I will be sanctified in you and you will know that I am the Lord and you will remember your ways and doings that defiled you and you will hate the things you used to do and know that I am the one who gave you mercy --- for My name sake! **Ezekiel 20.40-44**

If I serve Him...

He will accept me...

Gather and comfort me...

He will be sanctified in me...

I will know He is the Lord...

I will remember the ways and doings that defiled me...

I will hate the things I used to do...

And I will know He gave me mercy; at His own expense, for the sake of His good name, and to show me favor as His namesake!

Warriors: Paul, *a servant* of Jesus Christ... **R1** Paul & Timothy, *servants* of Jesus Christ... **Phil 1** Epaphras, one of you, *a servant* of Christ... **Col4.12** James, *a servant* of God and the Lord Jesus... **Jam1** Peter, *a servant* and sent one of Jesus... **2P1** Jude, *the servant* of Jesus Christ... **Jude 1** Signified it by angel to His *servant* John... **R1.1** Jesus, the Son of God, took on the form of *a servant* and was faithful to death! **Phil 2.7,8**

Everyone of them, and many more, laid down their lives to *serve* God and others! **Heb11**

Everyone of them realized the promises made to *servants!* **2C1.20, Heb6.10-15, 11.13, 2P1.4**
What about Us? “The servant is not greater than his Master, and I have given you an example that you should do as I have... J13

War-heads? When they forsake Me, their vine is of the vine of Sodom, of the fields of Gomorrah: the grapes are full of gall, their clusters are bitter: Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps. **Deuteronomy 32.32,33** Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will reprove you; know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that you have forsaken the Lord your God! **Jeremiah 2.19**

War-heads: “The enemies of the Cross are those whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is their shame, who entertain earthly things!” **Ph3.18,19** But you war a good warfare; holding faith and good conscience, which some having put away concerning faith have made themselves a shipwreck, like Hymenaeus and Alexander. **1Tim1.18-20**

Sounds hard... All the fighting with self to sacrifice for others... Warring a good warfare against the flesh, devil, world, unappreciative people... Laying down your life to serve God, others... And all those apostles, they suffered for their faith... Hard, if your idea of easy is do nothing! Hard, if what you want is to sit back and bask in His grace and mercy... Worthwhile if you want to be on His team! Worthwhile if you are looking ahead to the day of judgment, justice and reward! *Where’s the joy in the kingdom?*

Where’s the joy? Joy is in looking in the mirror/ seeing someone disciplined/solid looking back! Joy is in looking like Jesus to our enemy! And looking like His twin to Father! Joy is in knowing rewards are building! Joy is in looking around and seeing yourself surrounded by fruitful people... no greater joy than when it’s one of your children, natural or spirit born!

Natural... Children are an inheritance of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. **Psalms 127.3**

Spirit... My little children, I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you. **Galatians 4.19**

Spirit... We cared for you like a mother does her children... With each of you we were like a father; holding your hand, whispering encouragement, showing you how to live well before God... **1Thess 2.7ff**

Naturally, or supernaturally, we are called to bear fruit... that remains... There is no fruit that remains like... our “children!” And they deserve our best efforts, our heroic efforts, to help them enter... Fruitopia! That ideal place where true believers live and produce abundant, sweet, juicy, fruit that glorifies God!

A Daughter’s Story

I came to Life because I heard it was one of the only churches in town that was open minded towards everyone!

We are open to everyone, not open-minded! We have been given the mind of Christ... He was open to all, the friend of sinners... But He was single-minded for “redemption!”

I felt at home and welcome. I looked forward to coming every week and when I did I felt safe. Safer than I did in my own home.

It is the curse of our society that home is too often not our primary refuge... But “home” and “welcome” should not mean “unchallenged” and “held responsible...”

I opened up there and trusted everyone. I looked up to you. But after last night's service I have no reason to.

The message, situation appropriate, in preparation for DOS, dealt with sexual sins and what our response needs to be...

I've been sure about my sexuality since I was in grade school. It's who I am. And I thought you were totally okay with it.

No one who is "hearing" can think we are okay with it, if the "it" is active sin! It's possible for a child to sit in service week after week and still not hear... Because it's possible for adults to be here and not hear what's being said! Totally okay w/sinners in process, not okay w/Christians okay with their sin!

I know the Bible says love is meant between a man and a woman. And you said being gay, lesbian, or bisexual is a choice. I couldn't disagree more.

Only meant for a man and woman... God only made two completing components that make "one whole part" and two same parts can only be two same parts... In the vacuum is only "choice!"

In grade school when girls were crushing on boys, I was secretly crushing on girls too. I was so young I didn't know what it meant. But I accepted the fact that I was different.

Given a set of variables, choices were made to self-define, act and accept... and settle!

I love Jesus. I praise his word. I read my bible everyday. And follow everything he says. And I am bisexual.

Aside from the contradiction of terms... our hope is that loving Him, reading His word, having help to understand, this child will mature and emerge to freedom.

2Tim 2.25,26 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Does that change the fact that I am a Christian? I make mistakes. I have sex. I smoke. I cuss. Don't say being myself is a mistake. I know for a fact God loves me.

No, it doesn't change the fact that she is a believer in Jesus... (**warning: Jam 2.19,20**) But mistakes are different than willful sin! Being ourselves is not a mistake, remaining ourselves is... (**2P1.3,4, R8.29, 12.2**) And yes, Jesus is the "fact" God loves us!

Who will cry and serve?

In the "phase" of temptation (**Mt4**) in grade school, no one there to see the tears, call the name, keep her from falling... **If we love God, how can we turn away? Each one has their Father's eyes!**

Engaged in a different battle now for her, but what about fighting/serving/warring for those at the decision making age?

Are we hearing their cries? Who will cry for them... who will catch them... who will turn away?