

#MVCNlife

Pastor Amanda Montgomery | September 30, 2018

By Our Fruit

Scripture: Mark 11:12-14, 20-21 (NLT)

“In connection with this whole mission there are glorious possibilities, but one cannot, in the face of the peculiar difficulties, help but say, ‘Who is sufficient for these things?’ But with simple confidence and trust we may, and do say, ‘Our God sufficiency is of God.’” - Louisa Stead

- Jesus not only **desires** to cultivate fruit in our lives, He **expects** it.

Mark 11:12-14, 20-21 (NLT)

¹² *The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.¹³ He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit.* ¹⁴ *Then Jesus said to the tree, “May no one ever eat your fruit again!” And the disciples heard him say it.*

²⁰ *The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up.* ²¹ *Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”*

- The **leaves** serve the needs of **the tree**;
But the **fruit** feeds those who **are hungry!**

How nutritious is the soil in which you are growing?

I am spiritually growing or seek to grow in the following ways:

I am spiritually serving others or seek to serve others in the following ways:

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

Scripture: Mark 11:12-14, 20-21 (NLT)

1. Pastor Amanda gave us some examples of Christian “fruit” growing from the roots of faith, hope, and love. Can you provide some personal examples of fruit grown from faith, hope, and love in your life?
2. In our teaching, we heard the words; “Jesus does not only desires to cultivate fruit in our lives, he expects to cultivate it.” What emotions or thoughts does this statement stir in you?
3. In our primary teaching text today, Mark 11:12-21, we learn of Jesus cursing a fig tree because it was not bearing fruit (compare this text with Luke 13:6-9). If the fig trees are metaphors for followers of Jesus, how do your own fruit-bearing capability? How much “fruit” do you think Christians are expected to bear?
4. At Mountain View Church, our ministry opportunities are particularly designed to help persons to Know God and make Him known, Grow disciples who grow disciples, and Show the love of Christ in tangible ways to our community and beyond. In what ways are you connected to your church to know, grow, and show personally?
5. Pastor Amanda quoted Scripture from John 13:34-35, pointing out Jesus’ words saying, “Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” Can you describe the type of love Jesus was teaching his disciples? Are you satisfied that you are meeting the expectations of Jesus in this commandment to “Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other”?
6. Several opportunities to grow in ways of love and “fruit bearing” were shared in our teaching today. If you sensed God moving you to take next steps to cultivate your soil, prune your tree, or produce more fruit, what will your next step be? Who will you connect with to help you?