

Mark 4:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Analysis

Jesus describes good soil: 'And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.' Good soil hearers:

1. 'hear the word' (ἀκούουσιν)—attentive reception
2. 'receive it' (παράδεχονται)—welcome and embrace it
3. 'bring forth fruit' (καρποφοροῦσιν)—produce observable results.

Fruit varies in quantity (30x, 60x, 100x) but all good-soil believers bear fruit, proving genuine conversion. The progression: hear → receive → produce fruit characterizes authentic discipleship. Fruitfulness, not emotional enthusiasm or temporary endurance, validates genuine faith.

Historical Context

Ancient Palestinian harvests varied: 30-fold was good, 60-fold excellent, 100-fold extraordinary (Genesis 26:12 records Isaac's 100-fold harvest as remarkable blessing). Jesus' point: all genuine believers bear fruit, though quantity varies based on gifts, opportunities, faithfulness. Early church emphasized fruit of Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), good works (Ephesians 2:10), and converts brought to faith (Romans 1:13). Reformers insisted genuine faith produces works—not earning

salvation but evidencing it. Puritans examined themselves for fruit as assurance of election. True Christianity is fruitful Christianity.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What spiritual fruit evidences genuine conversion in your life—character transformation, good works, gospel witness?
2. How does varying fruitfulness (30x, 60x, 100x) free you from comparison while maintaining expectation of fruit?
3. What cultivation practices increase fruitfulness in your walk with Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὗτοί	εἰσιν	οἱ	ἐπὶ	τὴν	γῆν	τὴν	καλὴν
And	these	are	G3588	on	G3588	ground	G3588	good
G2532	G3778	G1526		G1909		G1093		G2570
σπαρέντες	οἷτινες	ἀκούουσιν	τὸν	λόγον	καὶ			
they which are sown	such as	hear	G3588	the word	And			
G4687	G3748	G191		G3056	G2532			
παραδέχονται	καὶ	καρποφοροῦσιν	ἐν	τριάκοντα	καὶ	ἐν		
receive	And	bring forth fruit	G1722	thirtyfold	And	G1722		
G3858	G2532	G2592		G5144	G2532			
ἑξήκοντα	καὶ	ἐν	ἑκατόν					
sixty	And	G1722	an hundred					
G1835	G2532		G1540					

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:10 (Good): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Luke 8:15 (Word): But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Mark 4:8 (Good): And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

Matthew 13:23 (Word): But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

2 Peter 1:8 (Parallel theme): For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis 26:12 (Parallel theme): Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

Romans 7:4 (Word): Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Philippians 1:11 (Parallel theme): Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.