



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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Part 5: The Fruitful Leader

7 Truths about fruitfulness

Exodus 1:7 (NIV)

7 but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

Introduction:

The Israelites were in a bad situation

- They were enslaved in Egypt
- They were under an oppressive dictator
- They were set up for failure

Exodus 1:12 (NIV)

12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites

How is it that the Israelites were so fruitful in a such a bad situation?

7 Truths about Fruitfulness

1. The God of the Bible is the God of fruitfulness
2. God commands us to be fruitful and so expects us to be fruitful - it is a command not an option
3. Fruitfulness is not season dependent or circumstance dependent but God dependent
4. Fruitfulness glorifies God
5. Satan fears a fruitful church

Exodus 1:8-10 (NIV)

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

- The more fruitful the people of God the more his kingdom is overcome
- His strategy will be to minimise your fruitfulness

John 10:10 (NIV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

If he can't kill you or destroy you he will try and rob you of your fruitfulness

FRUITFULNESS IS A FORM OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE THAT SATAN PUSHES BACK AGAINST

Example: Paul's first missionary journey

In the beginning....no opposition and not much fruitfulness

Acts 13:4-12 (NIV)

4 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

6 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos.

All the synagogues and little fruit and no opposition

" There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 10 “You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? 11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Then... first opposition and first major fruit of the Spirit and convert

Acts 13:44-45 (NIV)

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

Fuortfulness is going up fast and ... so is opposition

Acts 13:49-50 (NIV)

49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. 50 But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

Fruitfulness goes up more ... so does opposition

Acts 14:1-2 (NIV)

1 At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. 2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

Fuortfulness is rising ... so is opposition

Acts 14:11 (NIV)

11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!”

Acts 14:19 (NIV)

19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

YOU GET THE POINT - GREATER FRUITFULNESS LEADS TO GREATER OPPOSITION

QUESTIONS:

- 1. If greater fruitfulness for God means greater opposition from Satan, win you still say YES LORD?

- 2. In what ways have you experienced opposition before?
- 3. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NIV) "*For we are not unaware of his schemes.*" - if you can anticipate how Satan usually attacks you, then what can you do to safeguard against it?