

How Much Have You Got?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 4:20, "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some an hundred."

Jesus told how that the seed that went by the wayside, the stony ground, and the thorns, failed to produce fruit. They all had conditions that killed the good seed. He was talking about the same conditions that are in some people's lives. They don't receive the good word of God and so they are barren in the spiritual life.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, the good seed has been planted in your heart. Now the question is - how much growth has taken place since you came to the Lord? Have you grown spiritually and increased in the knowledge of God? It all depends on the type of soil that a seed is planted in as to the increase that it yields.

I wonder if most of us really think of ourselves as bringing forth fruit. It would seem that

the majority of people just want to be saved and that is enough to them. Isn't that why some folks don't care about reading the word of God? Usually this type of attitude is also keeping a person from Sunday School, Bible Study, and for some, the evening service. The thought is, "I go to church," and they think that is good enough. Is there anything wrong with that theory?

What if the Lord Jesus had said, "I went to the cross and gave my life for the sins of the world, that's enough." What would we do in our lives when we face trouble and temptation? The Lord promised to be with us and to not forsake us. We have His assurance that we are not alone as we try to live in a manner pleasing to God. If we fail and find that we have sinned we can go to Him in repentance and know that He will forgive us. Jesus is faithful and always near, giving us the encouragement and help that we need.

What about those times that we, or a loved one, have a disease, or accident, and we ask the Lord for help. That is what we do when we pray, usually it is to ask the Lord for some kind of blessing and help for our troubles. What if He said, "I went to the cross and died for you to

be saved, isn't that enough?" No, we need help in this life and we want Him to hear and bless anytime we call on him. Still we don't seem to think that we need to do that much for Him. We go to church, isn't that enough?

How can we feel that we can do a few minutes a week and think that we have done a lot for the Lord? Some are not even faithful to come each week and still they tell themselves that they are in good standing with the Lord. Instead of serving the Lord they live for themselves and do as their flesh leads them. There are even some who will argue that you don't need to go to church and that they are doing better than those who go regularly. They have no scripture for their stand, but that doesn't keep them from saying it.

So just how much fruit do we bring forth to the Lord? Do we even stop to thank him before we eat the food that He has provided for us? Out in public I see very few people, and some I know profess to follow the Lord, give thanks before they eat. In a hurry, or ashamed, I don't know, but I don't know another reason why they forget the Lord.

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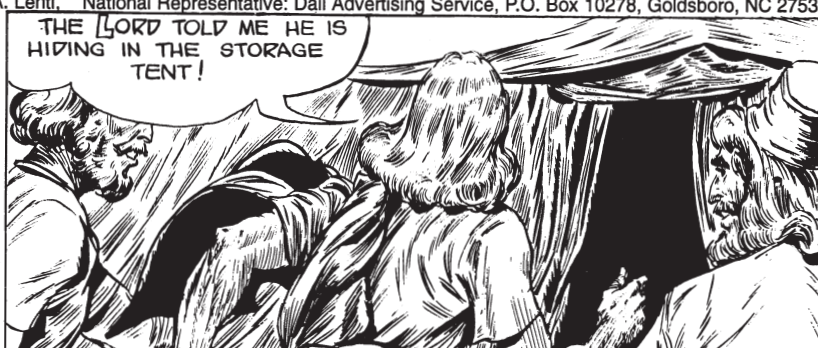
413 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of 1 Samuel Intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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