Fruity and Fat Saints

**Read:** Psalm 92:12-15

**Text:** Psalm 92:12 “The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”

**Introduction:** Christians are often compared to trees in scripture. In the first Psalm we read that the solid believer is like a tree planted by the waters. In the 52nd Psalm David describes himself as “like a green olive tree in the house of God.” In Israel there was a tree that is called a date palm tree. This is the tree that the psalmist is referencing here.

**I. What the righteous produce:** The date palm may just be the most prolific producer of any tree in the Middle East, it produces dates, sugar, wine, honey, oil, resin, rope, thread, tannin (an acid used in the tanning process), and dyes. Its seeds are fed to cattle and its leaves are used for roofs, fences, baskets, and mats. No part of this tree is wasted. It is appropriate that the righteous should be compared to this particu-lar tree. No part of our life should be wasted. Everything that God has placed in our life has a purpose. Instead of asking: “Why me?” We need to be asking: “How can I give God glory through this situation?

Cody (born blind & deaf) can cry out: “Glory to God for I once was blind and deaf but now I see and hear.” Jared (with his crippled hands) can cry out: “Glory to God my hands have provided opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ when someone asks about them.” Rahm Emmanuel is famous for saying: “Never let a crisis go to waste.” That is a profound statement and makes good theology for the righteous.

**II. Where the righteous produce:** David tells us that the righteous are planted and flourish in the house of the Lord. Perhaps the reason that many of us struggle to grow is that we spend too little time in God’s presence. In the scriptures we find many houses mentioned In Exodus God’s people are in the house of bondage. Some dwell in a house of idols. Many men get caught up in the house of the mighty and, far too many, end up in the house of the women. Solomon tells of the house of feasting & mirth. Jesus talks of His house becoming a house of merch-andise. The righteous can only produce Godly fruit when planted firmly in the house of the Lord.

**III. When the righteous produce:** In the 14th verse we read of the righteous: “They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;” The word “still” indicates that that their fruit bearing begins before old age but continues on into old age. Despite what we are told by the fashion industry: fat is a blessing. Wait until the famine and you will understand what I am saying. We are told that the fruit of the date palm becomes sweeter as the tree ages. Most experts in agri-culture will tell you that as a tree matures the fruit is better. Most fruits & vegetables are best if you wait until they are ripe before you pick them. I can testify that the word of God becomes more meaningful as I get older. I am asking God to age me into a sweeter person.

**IV. Why the righteous produce:** The last verse that we read provides the purpose for the righteous to become fruity and fat saints. It says: “To shew that the LORD *is* upright: *he is* my rock, and *there is* no un-righteousness in him.” All that emits from the life of a believer ought to reflect the righteousness of God. If there is anything deserving of compliment in our lives it is only because of what the Lord has done in and through us. Is it so hard to recognize that?

What should I do when I am credited with honor that belongs to someone else? I should pass the honor to the one who really deserved it. Have you ever watched an awards show? Who does the artist thank when he or she is receiving their award? Does anyone here remember a duo called Millie Vinilly? They were professional lipsynchers and failed to thank the actual singers of the songs that they were credited with.

**Conclude:** Are we productive in our faith? Are others blessed through us? What are you going to do about it?