

The Call: Disturb the Comfortable and Comfort The Disturbed

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“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. John 15:2, KJV

In this allegory of a text, Jesus uses this parable to define the relationship between believers and Christ. For the sake of this article, I want to use this text to demonstrate the elements of our call and election. At the simplest root of the matter, our call is wrapped up in the title quote belonging to Finely Peter Dunne, an American Humorist and writer from Chicago, “in our fruit bearing we have been called to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed”.

Notice that we have been created to bear fruit, more fruit, and much fruit. The burden of bearing fruit is the responsibility of the branches and not the vine. As the branches of the Vine, the branch is also the fruit of the Vine; though He delegates the fruit bearing to you and I as the branches. Take into careful consideration that He did not call us to be popular, but to produce fruit. “Producing fruit” isn’t a popularity contest because each of us has fruit that must be produced in our assigned season. For those who are disturbed at the production rate of others, be comforted in knowing that there is a season assigned to your life as well. In fact, while you are in your pre-season conditioning, God has weathered your life with the right elements so that you will be able to bring forth fruit at the appointed time.

Secondly, the call isn’t always pleasant. As you submit to the pruning process know that the quality of the fruit isn’t your responsibility. Remember you have been called and chosen for God’s purpose; therefore, you can’t afford to negate His purpose in attempts to please others. The calling upon your life is ultimately to bring Glory to God and to reproduce Him in the earth realm. Reproducing God in the earth today will require you to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed. We must disturb those who are comfortable with keeping silent, looking the other way, ignoring the plight of the poor, mishandling authority, and abusing power at the expense of those who are without a voice. At the same time, we must comfort those who suffer in silence, are victimized by spiritual wickedness in high places, and those who succumb to the pressure of being products of their environment. You have been called and even when it is not pleasant it is still our job to produce more fruit.

Lastly, while we are called to bear fruit, more fruit, and much fruit, the quality or quantity isn’t our responsibility. Your responsibility is to abide in Jesus and allow Him to abide in you. Jesus has never called you to be successful. However, He has called you to be faithful. If you are going to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed, then you must make Jesus your abode. He will ensure your success when you rest in him and draw your life strength from Him. So as you define,

develop, and/or desire the call, make sure you count the cost. When you aren't celebrated, complimented or compensated, remember you have been called to disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed. Bear fruit my friends!