

An Exceedingly Good Land

Meeting 5

The Goodness of the Land – Food (1)

- The Fig Trees
- The Pomegranates
- The Olive Tree
- The Animal Life
 - Milk and Honey

Recall

7 kinds of food: wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive tree with oil, and honey.

Scripture Reading

For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains; A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey. **(Deut. 8:7-8)**

And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your fresh oil, the offspring of your cattle and the young of your flock, on the land which He swore to your fathers to give you. **(Deut. 7:13)**

He made him ride on the high places of the earth, And he ate the produce of the field; And He made him suck honey out of a crag, And oil out of flint rock: Curd of cows and milk of sheep, With fat of lambs, And rams, the offspring of Bashan, and goats, With the choicest wheat; And the blood of the grape you drank as fermenting wine. **(Deut. 32:13-14)**

But the olive tree said to them, Shall I leave my fatness, because of which God and men are honored by me, and go to wave over the trees?...But the fig tree said to them, Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees?...But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees? **(Judg. 9:9, 11, 13)**

And I will raise up for them a planting place of renown, and they will no longer be consumed

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with famine in the land and no longer bear the disgrace of the nations. **(Ezek. 34:29)**

Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and from there they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes; and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also cut off some of the pomegranates and some of the figs. **(Num. 13:23)**

And they told him and said, we came to the land into which you sent us; and it indeed flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. **(Num. 13:27)**

And I answered a second time and said to him, What are the two olive branches that are by the side of the two golden spouts, which empty the gold from themselves? And he spoke to me, saying, Do you not know what these are? And I said, No, sir. And he said, These are the two sons of oil, who stand by the Lord of the whole earth. **(Zech. 4:12-14)**

Excerpt

“Judges 9:11 tells us that the fig tree represents sweetness and good fruit. It speaks of the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as our supply. In the first item, the wheat, we could not see the sweetness and the satisfaction; neither could we in the barley. Even in the vine, the emphasis is not on the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ as our supply. From our experience, we realize that the more we enjoy Christ as the wheat, as the barley, and as the vine, the more we experience the sweetness and the satisfaction of Christ. The more we enjoy Christ as the resurrected One, the more we will be pressed, the more we will enjoy Him as the vine. But, praise the Lord, at that very moment we realize the sweetness and the satisfaction of Christ as our supply.”

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“When you enjoy and experience Christ as the wheat, as the barley, as the vine, and as the fig tree, the beauty of Christ is about you, the abundance of the life of Christ is with you. This is the experience of Christ as the pomegranate. If you enjoy Christ as the resurrected One and by the power of His resurrection you live the life of Jesus on this earth to suffer all kinds of pressure, persecutions, troubles, and conflicts, you will realize the sweetness and satisfaction of Christ within you, and you will manifest the beauty and the abundance of life to others. When others touch you, they will sense the loveliness and attractiveness of Christ, and an abundance of life will be imparted to them.”

“For what purpose is the oil of the olive tree used? We are told in Judges 9:9 that it is used to honor God and honor man. If we would honor God or man, we must do it by the olive oil. This simply means that if we would serve the Lord, if we would help others, we must do it by the Holy Spirit. We must be a man filled with the Spirit, an olive tree, a son of oil. We can never serve the Lord or help others without the Holy Spirit. But praise Him, if we enjoy Him as the wheat, the barley, the vine, the fig tree, and the pomegranate, we will surely have the oil. We will be filled with the Holy Spirit. We will be truly able to honor God and others.”

“Honey is derived mostly from the flowers and the trees. Of course, a part of the animal life is involved—that little animal, the bee. Without the flowers we cannot have honey, and without the bees we cannot have honey either. We must have flowers and we must have bees. These two cooperate; these two lives are mingled together, and honey is produced. But honey, for the most part, belongs to the vegetable life.

(From *The All-Inclusive Christ*, chapter 6)

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Bible Study Questions

- What is your experience of Christ as fig trees and as pomegranates? (Hint: Recall the first two paragraphs of the excerpt)
- How do you feel about applying Christ as the olive tree with oil in daily living? (Think about the word “honor”)
- Explain why honey is involved in one of the seven kinds of food mentioned in Deut. 8:7.