

COOPERATING WITH GOD JUNE 13, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

We've been discussing the experience of Israel's entrance to the promised land and how unbelief kept them out and faith got them in. We learned the importance of doing things God's way even if His way makes no sense or seems illogical. Tonight, I want us to explore the benefits of cooperating with God and living life His way.

FIVE SEEDS AND THEIR FRUIT

1. PROVERBS 3:1-2

- A. Long life is the fruit, obedience to God's law and commandments is the seed.
- B. Cooperating with God and doing things His way, will add years to our lives. **GENESIS 19:12-13, 17, 22-26** – "Looked back" means more than a glance over the shoulder. It means to regard, consider or pay attention to. Mrs. Lot died prematurely because she didn't cooperate with God.
- C. **LUKE 17:31-32** – Jesus used her as an example of someone who refused to cooperate with God. She valued her life in Sodom more than being obedient to God. Sulfur consumed everything she valued, then it consumed her.
- D. We too have been warned: **EPHESIANS 4:22-24** – Our focus is to be on putting on the new man. **1 JOHN 2:15-17** – Our love for the world should diminish, not increase over the years.

2. PROVERBS 3:3-4 – Finding favor with God and man is the fruit, keeping mercy and truth is the seed.

- A. Favor means acceptance or approval. Joseph found favor in Potiphar's eyes and was promoted in his house. When Joseph lost that favor, he was demoted and imprisoned.
- B. Mercy is not giving people what they deserve. Truth is a product of God's Word, our most valuable earthly possession, that instructs us in how to live, both are to be the guardians of our words and actions. Are we merciful? Do we honor God's Word?

3. PROVERBS 3:5-6 – Guidance is the fruit, the seed involves trusting God from the heart, not leaning on our understanding, and acknowledging God in all our ways.

- A. Sending praisers out to war, walking around Jericho's walls, waving a rod over the sea, speaking to a mountain, and casting out your nets after fishing all night and catching nothing, all seem unreasonable, but, by cooperating with God, miracles occurred.

4. PROVERBS 3:7-8 – The fruit is health, the seed involves humility, reverence, and departing from the evil of self-confidence.

- A. Naaman refused to cooperate with God. His pride got in the way as well as his reasoning. **2 KINGS 5:10-12**
- B. Once Naaman cooperated with God, he got his miracle, just as the blind man did by washing in the pool of Siloam.

5. PROVERBS 3:9-10 – The fruit is provision, the seed is honoring God with our finances.

- A. If we give to God's work, God will see to it that our needs are met.
- B. Four areas of giving include: Tithes, offerings, alms, and love giving.

COOPERATION VS RESISTANCE

- **ACTS 7:51** – They resisted the ministry of the Spirit by not cooperating with what He wanted to do.
- **MARK 16:20** – Cooperation produced many signs and wonders.