

Something I remember Pastor Greg teaching us as disciples to be aware and observant of is Demonic Patterns...

Especially in the arena of fruitfulness... The enemy seeks to rip off our fruit before it becomes established.

In our passage, the Midianites and the Amalekites for 7 years maintained a pattern of stealing the fruit right at harvest.

Judges 6:3 (ESV) For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

I THE CURSE OF BARRENNESS:

A- Barrenness by definition is: *the state of NOT being able to produce-*

1. To Produce or reproduce should be the normal

a. This is true of fruit trees and crops... A farmer must be able to produce! To not is viewed as a problem!

i. **Genesis 1:11** Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.

b. This is true for couples... When there is an inability to reproduce, couples identify that as a problem!

i. **Genesis 1:28** Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.

2. This is also true spiritually: We are intended to multiply! To Produce Converts, and reproduce discipleship.

a. **John 15:8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;

B- Fruitlessness is a CURSE-

1. The word curse means to make small... That is what the enemy wants!

a. To make small our effectiveness. To make small discipleship. To make small our church.

2. One of the ways the enemy does this is by attacking fruitfulness!

a. It was Isaac, that desperately needed water... so he dug wells... every time he finished the enemy came and stole-

i. No water, no crops, no livestock, no life!

3. The first assessment that needs to be made is: Am I barren? Is there a curse in the arena of fruitfulness?

a. If so, that is a curse at work that needs to be broken.

II DEMONIC PATTERNS:

A- Secondly, it may be that you can get fruit, but it doesn't last... which is what we see in our passage.

1. **Judges 6:3 (ESV)** For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the people of the East would come up against them.

a. They planted crops, crops grew, and when harvest time came they were ripped off... every year for 7 years.

i. That is a demonic pattern-

2. PG taught us that Barrenness is often defeated in steps: No one prays, then they will visit, then 3 mo, then 6 mo, 1yr

a. That is a pattern, right when all the work and toil is about to pay off, they are snatched away!

B- So why does the enemy do this?

1. Hell resists God, by resisting the people of God... Hell hates God, and Hell hates the church!

2. So that you will become discouraged: Its discouraging to put work in, time, follow up, money... only to lose!

3. So that you will stop: Stop evangelizing, stop discipling, and settle for less!

a. I have seen churches remain small, year after year, settled that it doesn't work HERE...

b. I've heard every reason; Its hard here, its witchcraft, its catholicism, its the NE, its black mold!

i. When I first moved back, there was a concert director and disciples that told me all the reasons One80 didn't work downtown... I began to combat the narratives... one night we had 12 saved, I said “*12 saved where it used to not work*”

III BREAKING DEMONIC PATTERNS:

A- Our job is to recognize demonic patterns and come against them!

1. **Judges 6:6** And the people of Israel cried out for help to the Lord.

a. They cried out to God! We reverse the curse of barrenness and we reverse demonic patterns by laying ahold of God

b. In Judges 6 God raised up a deliverer, and the people became fruitful again.

2. See, God wants His people fruitful & God wants people saved!

a. NY, years of losing converts every 6 months... called and asked PG what can we do? *You're going to have get ahold of God on this.*