

Fruitful vine

She replied, "Give me a blessing. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs. Joshua 15,19.

Many times in our lives, we give up, we shake our heads and say, "How can I be useful to the Lord, I have gone past the prime age, I am no longer fertile and my life is dried up." But our Lord always promises that He will make rivers flow out of deserts. Isaiah 43,19 He is able to do that , because the mountains are His, the deserts are His and the rivers too. He can juggle with His creation.

Many times we are so utterly convinced by our worthlessness that we reconcile to a defeated life. But in the light of the Word, we can be very sure that we are chosen by God to be His own people. Just look around the multitudes who have not even heard about Jesus once in their lifetime. You did not choose to be born a Christian, or to get to know the Lord, God in His mercy and grace chose you.

If God handpicked us, then why did He ? Let us go to John 15,16 where Jesus very clearly says, " You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." Whether you have a mighty calling like Paul or you are exiled in a strange country like Joseph, we are still called to bear fruit. Jesus says bear fruit, not produce, but bear. So the first step would be to live the way Jesus lived and naturally we will bear the Fruit of the Spirit : Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.(Ephesians 5,22) . Once we start bearing fruit people will automatically walk towards us, for in us, they will see the radiance of Jesus Christ.

To follow the footsteps of Jesus should be the desire of every person for it is the Sovereign Will of the Lord Almighty in the lives of all His children(Romans 8,29). When we deliberately and consciously choose to follow Jesus, then He will give us the strength and wisdom, to walk in His ways. Yeah it is hard to keep quiet when we are wrongly accused, but Jesus did, so must we. It is hard to pray and forgive the person who hurt you, but Jesus forgave His killers. Yes the Way is very

narrow, but when Jesus is with us, it will not be hard for us and the fruit we would thus bear, will abide.

So, if today we feel frustrated that the mountain top days have vanished, we do not have to sit and self pity our condition, instead we can go to the Father and ask, "Lord I am so dry, water my life, give me fields near the spring." He has it all and as the verse says, then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. When we desire like that Samaritan woman "Sir give me this water ...John4, 15," we would delight the heart of God and He will surely grant it.

No matter whatever be our circumstances, our age, or our infirmities, when we honestly ask the Lord for the fields near spring, He is faithful to give, for His kingdom will be built with every fruit that will bloom in that water filled field.

O Master Gardner, give us the lands near the springs of water, so that rivers of living water shall flow from us to this parched earth and that much fruit be gathered for your Kingdom. In Jesus name. Amen.