



Grace Assembly Of God

## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

|   |  |        |                         |
|---|--|--------|-------------------------|
| Scripture:  | Matthew 12   | Title: | The Fruit of the matter |
| Author  | Ps Kenny Koh   |        |                         |
| Summary of Chapter  | In Matthew chapter 12, Jesus was engaged in a series of questions and accusations from the Pharisees. They questioned Jesus' motivation in performing miracles and healing on Sabbath contravening OT laws. Jesus was even accused of being in cahoots with the enemy since He was able to cast out demons. In the midst of the verbal confrontation Jesus used an imagery of a tree and its fruits to show up the evil agenda that was in the Pharisees   |        |                         |
| Key Verse(s) NLT  | How does it speak to me?   |        |                         |
| <sup>33</sup> "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. (NLT) | <p>A commonsense interpretation of the verse is that the health of the tree is identified or known by the type and quality of the fruits it bears. The tree's fruits bear witness to the goodness of the tree. We can tell with certainty just by examining its fruits.</p> <p>When I was a young minister, a season pastor was sharing with me on how to discern the spiritual health of a person. He said, Kenny do not be captivated by his charisma, do not be awed by his position/titles, examine closely the fruits of his life and ministry and you will know his spiritual health. I kept that truth in my heart since and work at developing the fruit of the Spirit in my own life and ministry.</p> <p>I remember helping a family who were going through a season of turmoil in their lives. The father had huge gambling debts which led to his business bankruptcy. As the sole bread winner, it was devastating for the family. Over several months, a few of us managed to arrange for counselling, getting monetary assistance, securing legal advice and other matters. At the end of the ordeal the father and mother thanked us for showing kindness and goodness to them. Actually, for me, I was just being obedient to what the Bible teaches to do good, and to see them get back to their feet brought joy to my heart.</p> <p>Conversely, I consciously allow the Holy Spirit to examine any wrong motivations, thoughts that may lead to selfish actions, this undoubtably can be defined as bad fruits. Just look at the Pharisees for modelling.</p> |        |                         |
| <b>APPLICATION REFLECTIONS</b>  |  |        |                         |
| Adult:  | How are you guarding your heart? How are you allowing the Holy Spirit to constantly examine your motives and goals in life? Let Him lead your life's journey so that your fruits would be good.  |        |                         |
| Youth:  | What are the things that are important to you? How would you seek to look out to others around you and help those who are in need?   |        |                         |
| Child:  | If you were a tree, would you bear good fruit or bad fruit? What do you think is coming out of your mouth, evil or good? What are some good and kind things that you can say or do for your friends that would please God this week?   |        |                         |
| <b>PRAYER</b>   |  |        |                         |
| Praying Scripture:  | Father we pray that our thoughts and actions will bear good fruits and be a blessing to others. Putting the interest of others above ourselves and in so doing bring you the glory and praise.   |        |                         |
| Thanksgiving Prayer:  | I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)   |        |                         |
| Intercessory Prayer:  | I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)  |        |                         |
| Salvation Prayer:   | I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day).<br>In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.  |        |                         |