



Be Fruity

Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, “May you never bear fruit again!” Immediately the tree withered. – Matt. 21:19

I think trees can be the most beautiful things in all of creation. I also think they can be the ugliest as well. When I lived in Shreveport, I had 18 TALL pine trees. They were beautiful. They would sway in the wind. It almost looked like they were dancing and having a good time with each other. But other than the beauty of them, there wasn't anything more. Plus, I never want to rake over a hundred bags of pine needles again.

When I lived in St. Cloud Florida, I had six palm trees in the front yard and two in the back. We moved there in October so the trees out front were “wow” to me. I mean me, an Okie, with palm trees IN MY YARD! But eventually you stop seeing them because...well.. everyone has them and they don't do anything. They don't even dance.

But the two in my backyard became my favorites. One was a grapefruit tree and the other an orange tree. Remember, I moved there in October so they were just bare trees at first. But then it started. Small, green nubs began popping out on the newly leafed limbs. And they grew. And grew. Then, almost like overnight, I saw orange and yellow start peeking through. Before long, I had trees that were right out of the old orange juice and grapefruit juice commercials I had seen when I was a child. An Okie child.

And their taste! Just overwhelming. So sweet and full of juice. You had to have a napkin with you while you ate them. It seemed that when you bit into one, juice seemed to multiply. It was as close to heaven in a fruit that I had ever had. And there were so many. Perhaps sixty, seventy or even more... on each tree! I found myself drawn to them every day until I moved in May. Just thinking about it now, I've had to wipe my mouth twice. Fruit, good fruit does that to you.

So I can understand why Jesus was so upset with His fruitless, fruit tree. And it was His tree. It just wasn't an obedient tree. It promised one thing but did not deliver. It claimed sweet fruit but produced dry leaves. It looked the part but didn't have the fruit.

What about you? Are you producing fruit? Do people recognize in you, the sweetness of Jesus? Are they attracted to you because the Holy Spirit (fruit) is blossoming from you? It's sad when Jesus doesn't find fruit in our lives. But I believe (my opinion) it's just as bad if not worse when non-believers don't find fruit either.

Be fruity.

From My Heart,

Billy