



You did not choose me,  
but I chose you and appointed you so  
that you might go and bear fruit  
—fruit that will last—  
and so that whatever you ask in my  
name the Father will give you.

**John 15:16**

### ***CHOSEN TO GO AND BEAR FRUIT***

By Mary Ann Collett

What a great Summer for Peaches. I truly enjoyed eating them and found them to be very juicy and sweet for the first time in many years. However, yesterday I reached for a piece of fruit (a peach) to eat, only to discover that it was rotten. From a distance it looked good, but once I examined it closely, I could see that it was beginning to go bad and soften on the inside.

Later during the day, while reading Scripture. I discovered *John 15:16*, Jesus explains to His disciples why He chose them. He is trying to help them understand the purpose of their lives as His followers. Jesus knows that His time on the earth is ending soon and He is entrusting them with His ministry to those in need. **“Go and bear fruit,”** He tells them... **“fruit that will last.”**

Why did Jesus use this example to illustrate His point? To answer this question, it helps to think about the purpose of fruit. It is meant to feed and nourish. It is meant to satisfy and fill. It tastes good. Fruit also leaves seeds that can be replanted. It reproduces. Jesus is reminding the disciples to invest their lives in eternity, not in their daily lives.

The fruit of their lives will last as long as they are living in Him. In this example Christ is revealing His will for all of His followers.

Our lives should feed and nourish those with empty, hungry, longing souls. We should become living witnesses and be seed-planters of the Gospel.

### *What is God's Will?*

How are you spending your life right now? Every life bears some type of fruit, the question is, what kind? Is it the temporary fruit of the world that looks nice on the outside but is empty inside? Or is it the lasting fruit that is born from a life that is connected to Jesus? God's will be that you bear fruit, fruit that will last.

### *Prayer:*

*Dear Jesus, I cannot do Your will on my own. You must do it through me. I want my life to bear lasting fruit. Please help me to **depend** on You, **trust** You, and **obey** You, more and more each day. It is in Your name, "**Jesus**" I pray, Amen.*



Mary Ann Collett is the proud mother of 3 married daughters and 8 grandchildren. She is an inspiring and dynamic Catholic Lay Evangelist; whose gift is to intertwine Scripture and personal stories. Mary Ann Collett, MSW, MA, CLEM, LLC, is a *Bereavement Counselor, Life Coach, Pastoral Care Counselor, Spiritual Director, Support Group Leader, and Speaker for Retreats and Workshops*. She is in private practice in Red Bank. Mary Ann has been in the Healing Ministry for over 37 years. She is the co-founder of the thriving ministry Catholic Women of Zion celebrating their 32nd year in 2021.

She has traveled nationally and internationally to spread the message of the Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.