

Luke 6:43-45

Known By Your Fruit

We are on our way. I think you will notice the style has changed subtly and there is more emphasis on specific scripture and content.

What exactly is Jesus saying and what exactly does He want you to know? Of a whole lifetime of teaching, we have the four gospels.

Two weeks ago we took a turn at loving our enemies. I really brought it to a different viewpoint when we explored enemies of peace. The truth is anyone who opposes our will is a foe. Enemy may be a strong word, but it certainly conveys what is intended.

Then we took a turn at judging and again we went a little deeper. We understood that sin is a sensitive subject and that the forgiveness we receive is directly linked to the forgiveness we give.

As seen in the same sermon, but in **Matthew 6:14-15**:

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

You know we talked about the difference between someone who was there as opposed to someone who is recording, such as Luke. Matthew really explores mental attitude. He says murder, adultery, begin in the heart --- mental attitude.

1. Does a person’s mental attitude change when saved? Why and why not?

Luke 6:27-45

Our lesson today is on **Luke 6:43-45**.

⁴³“For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. ⁴⁴For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

2. How are these three verses tied to verses **27-42**?

The verses actually belong with the rest because it sums up the new character --- mental attitude -- of the believer. Key word is “For”.

A changed heart has forgiveness, acceptance, patience and love. Remember, judgmentalness is a lack of forgiveness.

John 3:17 'God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. '

So, the obvious question today is *have you changed? What fruit are you known for?* First off, how does a person become “known”?

This parable --- and it is a parable --- simple and profound.

'Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.'
Proverbs 4:23 NKJV

'Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. '
Proverbs 4:23 NIV

'Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.'
Proverbs 4:23 NCV

3. What are you known for? Good fruit? Bad fruit?

A good man ***“out of the good treasure of his heart”***.....

Treasure --- something valued, of worth.

What are you storing up mentally? Because that is what will come out when unguarded or under pressure. When we study, we store up treasures.

Proverbs 12:12-22

4. Can people change? Can you change?

We must store up treasures --- by practicing forgiveness and acceptance.

Galatians 5:22-25

If we live by the Spirit...

5. Which fruit do you lack?

Let's pray.