

Good Works: A Matter of the Heart

March 3, 2024 ▪ Cal Robertson

The _____.

Known by its _____.

Regenerate by God—The _____ heart.

Luke 6:43-45

⁴³ "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What's one of your favorite types of fruit? What do you like about it?

Read: Luke 6:43-45

Discuss:

1. As it pertains to people, what is Jesus talking about when He speaks in this passage of "fruit"? How is bearing fruit an appropriate analogy for this?
2. What does it mean for us to be a "good tree" or a "bad tree" (v. 43)? In verse 44 Jesus says, "each tree is known by its own fruit." Generally, fruit trees only produce one type of fruit, yet people are more complicated. Given that we all produce a mix of both good and bad fruit, how can we draw an accurate conclusion about ourselves or others based on considering the fruit we observe?
3. What does Jesus mean when He says in Luke 6:45, "for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks"? (*Perhaps read this verse in other versions. See also Matthew 12:33-35.*) What are ways your mouth has revealed something about your heart? If fruit comes out of our mouths, and our mouths reflect our hearts, what are ways we can give proper attention to cultivating our hearts?
4. **Read Luke 6:37-42.** How do these verses (which immediately *precede* Luke 6:43-45) caution us with regard to applying Luke 6:43-45 to other people? If we often cannot see "the log that is in [our] own eye" (v. 42), how can we go about removing it? Verse 42 tells us there is still a place for paying attention to the lives of others and encouraging them in godliness. How can we appropriately apply Jesus' challenge here?
5. **Read Luke 6:46-49.** How do these verses (which immediately *follow* Luke 6:43-45) help us understand the importance of considering Luke 6:43-45 for our own lives? How would you rephrase verses 48-49 using a *tree* analogy rather than a *house* analogy?

Apply: How would you draw an application from Luke 6:43-45 to our goal of being a blessing in our community? What's one thing you could do this week to help others be blessed by the fruit that is produced in you through the work of the Holy Spirit?

Pray: Ask God help us be a church that is so rooted in Jesus that we abound in good fruit for the joy and blessing of others in our community.