

## FRUIT AND FOUNDATIONS

(Luke 6:43-49)

Everyone loves a story, and there was no better storyteller than the Lord Jesus. He often used common illustrations from His world to teach spiritual truths in story form. The stories of the Good Samaritan, the Rich man and Lazarus, The Widow who lost her coin, and The Prodigal Son are but a few of His well-known ones. Jesus comes to the end of His “Sermon on the Plain,” and tells a couple of stories as He concludes His sermon. In these Jesus gives us a very strong warning and calls for a decision.

### TWO PARABLES CALLING US TO SELF-EXAMINATION BY WARNING THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO MERELY HEAR JESUS.

Of course we must first hear Him through the Word, but it must not end there.

#### I. The Parable From The Orchard: Your Tongue Reveals The True Condition Of Your Heart. (vv. 43-45)

- A. Jesus tells the story about fruit bearing trees.
  - 1. You do not need a degree in horticulture to understand that a tree can only produce the kind of fruit that it was created to produce. This is a law of nature.
  - 2. He tells: Good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit.  
fig trees produce figs; grape vines produce grapes; thorn bushes produce thorns, etc.
- B. Jesus is teaching us that every person is like a fruit tree. (spiritual horticulture)
  - 1. We can only produce the kind of fruit that is in our heart to grow.
  - 2. Your heart is the real you. Your heart is the center of your being. (Your soul!)
- C. He tells that there is a living connection between the people we are on the inside and the lives that we lead out in the world.
  - 1. The reason we say the things we say and do the things we do is that we are the people that we are. What we do and say is always in character.
  - 2. What should we say, then, when we get caught saying or doing something evil? We should say, “You know, that really is what I’m like. I’m just embarrassed because usually I’m better at hiding it!” (Ryken)
- D. Your tongue is the sound system of your heart. (v.45) Jesus is focusing upon the words we say. Whatever is in our soul gets amplified whenever we put it into words.  
So Jesus tells us that our words help us to make an accurate assessment of our own true spiritual condition. Here Jesus helps us to recognize that sin originates from the heart.  
Though most assume people are “good,” Jesus tells us otherwise. Born with evil hearts...

