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## Luke 6:43-44 Fruity

### Weekly Bible Study Schedule

**Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 AM in HHR #5**  
(breakfast provided)

**Tuesday, April 26, 8:30 PM in Office #225**  
(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)

**Capitol Commission is non-partisan and  
non-denominational**

The juxtaposition between the Pharisees and Jesus' disciples is highlighted in the second half of chapter six in the book of Luke. In many ways, the Pharisees had the right answers to important doctrinal questions, yet, wrong in attitude and application. In the gospel of Luke, chapter six, verse 20, Jesus teaches about the beatitudes (Life Perspective). In verse 27, He talks about loving people, and in verse 37, He talks about not judging people. The Pharisees received a grade of "A" for judging people, a grade of "F" for loving people. Highlighted in chapter six is the vision in which Jesus sees (and expects) His disciples to live. Not because it's a religious regulation, rather, because it reflects the nature and character of God.

*"Take care **not to perform** righteous deeds in order that people may see them...The Lord goes on to say that they blow a trumpet so that others will see them giving alms, they pray ostentatiously so that others may see they are praying, and they alter their appearance so that others may see they are fasting."*

Some of the Pharisees practiced religion like actors on a stage that played roles and wore masks to give the audience a show. Unlike Jesus that comes off the stage before crowds and gets on the same level where the people lived.

*"and He came down with them [His disciples] and stood on a level place...with the crowds". (6:17)*

Jesus levels the playing field. As we study Luke 6:43-45, imagine with me, Jesus on level ground with people like you and me, teaching truths about authentic discipleship.

*"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. You cannot pick figs or grapes from thornbushes. Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts. Bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts. Your words show what is in your heart."*

Unless a person is specially trained, most people cannot tell what kind of plant a tree is just by looking at its trunk and leaves. Once the fruit ripens identifying them is easy. Fruit doesn't lie – the **type of fruit you see reveals the type of person you be.**

The good tree brings something tasty and inviting to other

### How does one identify the type of tree?

people. But the bad tree brings forth rotten fruit. At its core, the tree is unhealthy. It cannot produce the sort of wellness on a long-term basis that benefits other people.

*Jesus said, "every tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:44a).*

You can't see inside a person's heart...the Scripture says don't judge a person's heart. Your **actions** identify what

### How does one know what's in a person's heart?

**kind of person you are. The words of our mouth echo the thoughts of the heart.** What is certain is that a good tree **will** produce good fruit a bad tree bitter fruit. You don't get figs from thorn bushes; you gather them from fig trees. Grapes grow on grape vines, not brambles. If you want fruit, you go to the fruit farm, not a sticker bush.

**What fruit are you bearing?** "Juicy or wormy?" Pause, and listen to your words. Stop, and assess your actions and associations. **Is your life heading toward Jesus?** Are your choices leading you toward godly habits? Are you becoming more like Jesus or more like the world? **The**



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**goal of discipleship is be like Jesus.** Are you grounded in the **Word** (Scripture) or the **world's** system of values and life perspective?

What kind of soil are you planted in? If the roots of a **good tree** are in rich, **life-sustaining soil** and that tree is being **well watered** with an **abundance of sunlight** – Then it's going to produce a **bumper crop** of delicious fruit. But if its roots are in poor soil, aren't watered well, and the sunlight is blocked, the fruit will come, but it's going to be few and of quality poor.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:3)

The heart of man is made the root, that being the principle of human actions are but the acts of the heart and of the will.

Our tendency is often to ignore our own inconsistencies, thinking that it is enough to give a good outward showing while letting our hearts go quite another direction. But Jesus makes clear that this is a game we simply cannot win. What is on the inside will not stay hidden, whether for good or for ill. The Pharisees pranced on stage as if sin is not their usual and common practice, hypocrites, who pretend to a great deal of religion, these are comparable to corrupt trees; though they may make a fair show, yet, do not bring forth good fruit, or perform works of righteousness. Could we agree there's a little bit of hypocrite in each of us? The praxis of sin plagues humankind.

We suffer under our own beam in our eye, yet we aim at extracting another's spec. The tree of hypocrisy is like a bad tree striving to bring forth good fruit, just as the Christ-life, cannot produce corrupt fruit.

*"Dear Mr. Pharisee, it's not about the ceremonial law that says eating with unwashed hands defiles a person."* One

thousand years before Jesus' day, the Prophet Isaiah said about the Pharisees and those that clothed themselves in ritualism: *'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me...Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.'*

Approximately 30 years after the life of Christ, the Apostle Paul lays out the capability of our human nature – He calls it **"the works of the flesh"** as recorded in Galatians chapter 5:19-23, and contrasted with **"the fruit of the Spirit"**.

*"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:19-23).*

- You must have a **change of heart** before you can have a **change of behavior**.
- You must **examine your life** - inspect your fruit.

**It's what we inspect that might change, not what we expect.**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! (Psalm 139:23)*

Only Jesus, can make you a "good" tree that is planted by the water full of fresh, juicy fruit.

**Only you can** ask Jesus to change your life. Perhaps, you'd like to say this simple prayer: *"Jesus, plant me into your good soil, make my "leaves" (life) bear healthy fruit that sustains me and contributes your soil to the world."*

