

Power of Words: Part 6

Words Reveal Our Heart Because Of The Fruit We Bear

Pastor James Bell

Luke 6:43–45 NLT

43 “A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. 44 A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. 45 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

If we could begin by being academic in our approach to bring a full spiritual understanding. Jesus identifies two different trees. One good and one bad. And while we want to view these trees from the perspective of a healthy and an unhealthy tree, the perspective of what Jesus was teaching was so much deeper than that view.

A good tree is the indication that its fruit is consistent every time. A bad tree is that its fruit is a hit or miss. It may be one thing today and another thing tomorrow. The bad tree in Jesus’s parable is a tree that is planted as a seed. A seed carries the genetic material of both parents. Now I want you to stop and think about it for a minute. When your parent were born, were they born into salvation? When you were born, were you born into salvation. Your parents inherited traits and character from their parents and when you were born you inherited traits from your parents. Each of us were born into sin. This is why Jesus labeled the tree as bad.

A good tree was and is identified as a tree that is grafted. You may ask, what is grafted. Grafting is the join of two. A branch from a cultivated/good tree would be grafted onto an already established wild tree, and the wild tree would then produce better fruit in greater quantity. The bad tree now has the capability to be consistent in producing the kind of fruit that aligns with God’s heart. This now brings clarity to the conversation that Jesus and Nicodemus had:

John 3:1–7 NLT

1 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. 2 After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.” 3 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see

the Kingdom of God.” 4 “What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” 5 Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. 7 So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’

This is why Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, born of water and spirit. When we are born again then we are a new creation. It’s not an actual rebirth of the flesh but now God’s nature is grafted to the seed trees and now our fruit aligns with what pleases God.

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Our fruit identifies what kind of tree we are. If we are a bad tree then our fruit will not have be good and if our tree is bad then our fruit will not be good.

Jesus didn’t stop with just the comparison of a good tree and a bad tree, but continues with the type of fruit. A fig is never gathered from thornbushes and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. It is physically and scientifically impossible for a grape to grow from an apple tree. So how can a bad tree produce good fruit? It is not possible. How can a sinner produce Christian characteristics? And the opposite is tree as well. How can a Christian produce sinful characteristics?

Have you ever spent much time with sinful people? What does their language sound like? What does their demeanor look like? What does their outlook on life look like?

Now we ask ourselves the question...does our fruit resemble theirs? Is our fruit the resemblance of a bad tree? Are we producing oranges and identify as a peach tree? Our words are fruit and our fruit identifies what is in our heart. A good tree or the christian person produces the attributes of God from the treasures of our heart. A bad tree or sinful person produces the opposite. Our fruit identifies what is in our heart. And Jesus said because of what is in our heart our mouth speaks from the overflow. Our mouths will tell on what is in our hearts! So when sinful things come out of our mouth... then sin is still in our hearts.

Proverbs 27:19 NLT

19 As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person.

But we know that at some point in our lives and in the lives of others that we have proclaimed to be something or someone that we are not. When we or someone portrays to be something or someone that they are not we become labeled as a two face liar. Jesus used a different terminology. Let find out what Jesus called such people.

Matthew 23:25 NLT

25 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites!

Hypocrite is one who acts pretentiously, a counterfeit, a man who assumes and speaks or acts under a feigned character.

The Pharisee's portrayed themselves to be one thing but in reality they were another. They looked like they were doing all the right things. They honored God with their lips but their heart was far from Him. They had a form of godliness. Paul address this same thing for the end times.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 NLT

1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

You may say Pastor, all of these things have been happening for thousands of years. And I'm not going to argue that with one single person. But its verse 5 that stands separated from the rest. They will act religious, but reject the power that could make them godly. We live in a society where everyone is a "Christian". But they reject the power of God's word that can change them. You might ask... isn't that what the Pharisee's were doing? But now this hypocrisy is plaguing the majority of the church today. Paul prophesied and said this would happen. We are seeing bad trees proclaiming to have good fruit. Our words will reveal our heart because of our fruit. These types of people are proclaiming to produce good fruit just because they have

fruit. Not everyone that goes to church is a good tree. Not everyone who wears a cross necklace is a good tree. Jesus said a good tree will produce good fruit. As we have stated before that we must not confuse man's good with God's good. They are two different goods!

Matthew 23:25–28 NLT

25 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! 26 You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too. 27 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. 28 Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

As always Jesus is addressing the position of the heart. What is in the heart will manifest outwardly. We can strive to clean up the language or outer appearance but does that prove that the heart is cleansed? What good is it to wash the outside of a cup if the inside is still dirty? Who did you really deceive? Individuals that will not address the posture of their heart and continue to present themselves as something or someone different has fallen into two traps; self-deception and hypocrisy. And Jesus said that the only thing you have in store waiting for you is sorrow. This word sorrow is used all throughout the new testament and it speaks of horror. This kind of horror is the same disastrous spoken of in the book of Revelation. If we ponder on that for a moment. What will be the most difficult thing that we could possibly ever face? An everlasting life outside of God and His love! This is how we must view the magnitude of what Jesus is saying here!

1. The outside cannot change until the inside changes.
2. We can clean up the outside but inwardly the tomb is full bones of the dead.
3. Appearance over authenticity is what Jesus was point out to the pharisee’s.

Your words cannot be cleaned until your heart is cleaned. This perfectly explains why sinful words continue to slip out. This explains why human anger still frequents our lips. We cannot wash the outside until the inside is washed. When we address the posture of our heart then posture of our words will follow.

You cannot produce words of love, encouragement, and truth from a heart filled with bitterness, envy, and deceit any more than a thorn bush can produce figs.

This is why behavioral modification fails. You can train yourself to speak differently for a season but if sin is still in our hearts, then sin will be revealed. The fruit will always reveal the tree. Our words will eventually expose what is within. Transformation isn't about learning better speech patterns. It's about becoming a different kind of tree. One whose nature has been fundamentally changed so that good fruit naturally flows from what you've become.

Let me pray with you today!