

Scripture reading: Luke 6:43-45

Sermon Title: A Tree & Its Fruit Part 2

“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.

Luke 6:43-45

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.
v45

Consciously & Proactively attend to your heart.

“People do not drift toward Holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord. We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom; we drift toward superstition and call it faith. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated.” -D.A. Carson

Attending to the heart means acknowledging the need for a new heart.

And the Lord said:

“Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while *their hearts are far from me*,

Isaiah 29:13

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. *I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh*, ²⁰ that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creation*. The old has passed away; behold, *the new has come*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Receive the promise of a new heart.

Return to the promise of a new heart.

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*.
v45

Attending to the heart means addressing the contributing factors behind our behaviors.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that *your passions are at war within you?* ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people!
James 4:1-4a

Go beneath the surface of your behaviors.

What desires are driving me?
What fears am I attempting to avoid?
What dreams am I attempting to accomplish?
What are some beliefs behind my behaviors?

“Idolatry is not just a failure to obey God, it is a setting of the whole heart on something besides God.”

-Tim Keller. Counterfeit Gods

How have I created a functional savior, a counterfeit goD?
Between Power, Comfort, Approval, & Control which do I tend to pursue the most?
Between Power, Comfort, Approval, & Control which am I gravitating the most towards presently?
What has caused you the most anxiety in the last 30 days?
What have you found that is difficult to go without & why?
What has caused the most frustration in your heart, or caused damage in your relationships with others?
Where does your money effortlessly go?
What are your most consistent prayers & sincerest hopes?
How have you responded to unanswered prayers or frustrated hopes?

Uproot the goDs we make.

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*.
v45

Attending to the heart means actively sowing & watering good seed.

There are no silver bullets to spiritual growth, only a long obedience in the same direction with the same means of grace.

Do not be deceived: ***God is not mocked***, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for ***in due season*** we will reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:7-9

Keep sowing & watering good seeds.

Attending to the heart means actively participating in God's pruning process.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, ***and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*** ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ ***I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit,*** for apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:1-5

Active Participation:

Be Honest.

Be Open.

Stay Connected.

Be Active.

Consciously & Proactively attend to your heart.

*What aspect of **attending to the heart** do you need to focus on this week?*

*Is God calling you to map the next 4 weeks with the 4 aspects of **attending to the heart**?*