

“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

Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.
Proverbs 4:23

As in water face reflects face,
so **the heart of man reflects the man.**
Proverbs 27:19

The framework Jesus establishes is examining the condition of our hearts by examining the fruit of our lives, *the heart is the target.*

The framework Jesus establishes is cautioning against deception generally & self-deception particularly, *don't be deceived.*

“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...
v43-44

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
James 1:22

The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?
¹⁰“I the Lord search the heart
and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds.”
Jeremiah 17:9-10

Self-deception is the place where we start, but *it doesn't have to be the place we stay.*
Self-deception is a place where it's easy to linger in, but *it doesn't have to be the place we live from.*

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

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of ***the oracles of God***. You need ***milk***, not ***solid food***, ¹³ for everyone who lives on ***milk*** is unskilled in ***the word of righteousness***, since he is a child. ¹⁴ But ***solid food*** is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to ***distinguish good from evil***.
Hebrews 5:12-14

The framework Jesus establishes centers **the word of God** as the standard of evaluation.

The Process of Critical Examination:
Look to God

“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***
v43-44

Search me, O God, and **know my heart!**

Try me and **know my thoughts!**

²⁴ And see if there be **any grievous way in me**,
and **lead me** in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:23-24

The framework Jesus establishes calls for **humble & honest** self-reflection.

The Process of Critical Examination:
Look to God.
Look in the Mirror.

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

The framework Jesus establishes calls for examination **with & in community**.

It takes community to see the truth.
It takes community to live the truth.

The Process of Critical Examination:
Look to God.
Look in The Mirror.
Listen to Community

The Process of Critical Examination:

Look to God.

Look in The Mirror.

Listen to Community.

Look to The Cross.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Genesis 3:7

And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Genesis 3:21

Don't reach for the fig leaves, reach for more grace!

There's grace for the gaps in our lives.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

Do the work of critical examination, reach for more grace, & work to close the gaps.

What part of the process are you the weakest in?

Where do you need greater alignment to the words & ways of Jesus?

How can you apply the grace of God to your heart right now?