



THE GOSPEL OF  
MATTHEW



# The Fruit of Our Lives

Matthew 12:33–37



## Matthew 12:33–37

<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

<sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

<sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. <sup>36</sup> I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, <sup>37</sup> for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”



# 1. Examine your fruit, because your fruit reveals your spiritual condition (12:33)

<sup>33</sup> “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.”



## Matthew 7:16–20

<sup>16</sup> “You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit... <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”



## Galatians 2:14–20

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.



## Galatians 2:14–20

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?



## 2. Evaluate your treasure, because your treasure reveals your heart's condition (12:34–35)

<sup>34</sup> “You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”





## Genesis 3:15

“I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring.  
He will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”



## 2. Evaluate your treasure, because your treasure reveals your heart's condition (12:34–35)

<sup>34</sup> “You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”

*Overflow* →

*Your Nature* → *Your Desires* → *Your Fruit*

“good person”

“good treasure”

“brings forth good”

“evil person”

“evil treasure”

“brings forth evil”

*Your Nature* ← *Your Desires* ← *Your Fruit*

← *Diagnosis*



## James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.  
Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your  
hearts, you double-minded.



### 3. Watch your words, because heart-revealing words have eternal consequences (12:36–37)

<sup>36</sup> “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, <sup>37</sup> for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”



## Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths,  
but only such as is good for building up, as fits the  
occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.



## Colossians 3:8–9

<sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.



# Three Trees





# Three Trees

➤ **The dead tree**



# Three Trees

- **The dead tree**
- **The deceived tree**



# Three Trees

- **The dead tree**
- **The deceived tree**
- **The discouraged tree**

<b>Scripture</b>	<b>How to be a fruitless or poisonous tree</b>
Ps 1:4	Live by worldly wisdom instead of God's word
Jer 17:5–6	Turn away from God and trust yourself
Jn 15:5, 12	Isolate yourself from God and his people
Heb 12:5–11	Resist God's pruning work through trials
Gal 5:19–23	Let your fleshly desires drown out the Spirit
Jas 3:13–18	Give in to selfish pride, envy, and bitterness
Heb 12:15	Slowly turn away from God and his promises

Scripture	How to be a fruitful and productive tree
Ps 1:1–3	Digesting God's word, not worldly wisdom
Jer 17:7–8	Trusting in God, not ourselves
Jn 15:5	Abiding in Christ, not neglecting him
Jn 15:2	Embracing God's pruning work in our lives
Gal 5:19–23	Walking by his Spirit, not our fleshly desires
Jas 3:13–18	Fostering peace, mercy, and gentleness



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