

A Tree and Its Fruit

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 6:43-45



Big Idea

Jesus changes the tree!

(1) The Necessity of Good Fruit

As Jesus picks up this imagery of a tree and its fruit, I think it is important to see it in connection with the larger discussion concerning fruit in the Scriptures. When once we do this, one thing becomes unmistakably plain: Good fruit is a necessity. And what I mean by “necessity” is: You cannot be right with God, you cannot pass through the final judgment, you will not inherit eternal life without it.

(2) The Priority of a Good Tree

Good fruit, though essential and utterly necessary, is, at the same time, not the first priority. It's a subordinate, a secondary matter. The fruit is the effect and evidence of a deeper reality: namely, the tree. Therefore, if you want to change the fruit, you must first change the tree. Or, to put it in human terms: If you want to change your thoughts, words, deeds, you must first change your heart.

(3) The Way of Lasting Change

We don't need behavior modification, we need regeneration. We don't need to pick ourselves up and try again, we need to lay ourselves down before the cross and be born again! Jesus changes the tree!

If you are not a Christian, the plea is for you to come to Christ, to repent of your sin and receive what He accomplished for you on the cross, and He will put you back together from the inside out.

But if you are already a Christian, I assume that there is something still left nagging at you from v. 43: “[N]o good tree bears bad fruit.” Any Christian feel like they bear bad fruit? Are all of your thoughts pure? Are all your words edifying? Are all your deeds kind? So what now? Are you not a Christian? Are you not a good tree? If this is where you are at, let me assure you: Good fruit is not composed merely of good behavior but also of good reactions to bad behavior! As A.W. Pink has said: “It is not the absence of sin but the grieving over it [that] distinguishes the child of God from empty professors.”

I might put it like this: For the Christian, sin is no longer so much from his nature as it is against his nature. Because Jesus has changed us in a fundamental way, sin is no longer so much an expression of our heart as it is an attack on our heart. And we will grieve over it, repent of it, and slowly grow in holiness away from from it. If we are in Christ, then we are truly a good tree.

Reflection Questions



- We don't need behavior modification, we need regeneration. Describe what this means in your own words. How have you seen it work out in your own life? How would this change the way you parent your kids?
- Read Rom 7:4 again. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ make a way for our fruitfulness? How have you experienced this personally?
- Good fruit is not composed merely of good behavior but also of good reactions to bad behavior. How have you experienced this? Are there areas of sin in your life that you have been too comfortable with lately? How has the Spirit helped you grieve, repent, and change?