

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

BEARING FRUIT

Luke 6:43-44 “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.”

Even a relatively young child understands what Jesus says in today’s devotional verses. Yet, it is helpful to know that Jesus used the word “bad” in the sense of fruit of poor quality and therefore of little or no value. One could say the fruit has no taste and no one wants to eat it.

Jesus’ point is one would want to find fruit trees that bear high quality, delicious, sweet tasting fruit. The fruit is desirable and of high value to the consumer. How it tastes will matter greatly as to whether or not you eat the fruit.

Jesus said on another occasion, “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:8) In the previous verses Jesus says that in order to bear this fruit you need to “remain in Him.” In fact, He says, “apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) Tying this together with Jesus’ words in Luke 6, two trees can both look healthy and capable of bearing fruit. But only a fruit tree can bear fruit. Likewise, only those who are true believers in Jesus are able to produce fruit that shows that they are His disciples. Their words and actions give glory to God.

Jesus said on yet another occasion, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31) The origin of a tree determines the kind of fruit it produces. The foundation of your faith determines the fruit you will produce. Matthew Henry comments, “If the fruit be good, you may conclude that the tree is so; if the conversation be holy, heavenly, and regular, though you cannot infallibly know the heart, yet you may charitably hope that it is right with God.”

There is a direct correlation between your relationship with Jesus and your thoughts, words and deeds. Through your faith in Jesus your thoughts, words and

deeds will give glory to God and build up those around you. This is the good fruit to which Jesus refers in today's devotional text.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, by God's grace through His gift of faith to me connect me to Jesus through whom I am able to bear good fruit. Amen.

Draw us to Thee, For then shall we Walk in Thy steps forever
And hasten on Where Thou art gone To be with Thee, dear Savior.

Draw us to Thee, Lord, lovingly; Let us depart with gladness
That we may be Forever free From sorrow, grief, and sadness.

Draw us to Thee; O grant that we May walk the road to heaven!
Direct our way Lest we should stray And from Thy paths be driven.

Draw us to Thee That also we Thy heav'nly bliss inherit
And ever dwell Where sin and hell No more can vex our spirit.

Draw us to Thee Unceasingly, Into Thy kingdom take us;
Let us fore'er Thy glory share, Thy saints and joint heirs make us.
(LSB 701)