Known By Your Fruits

How can you recognize bad people? Can Jesus help me see the difference? What are the fruits he talked about? What kind of life should I be living?

INTRO

Get your Bibles out. Find Matthew 7:15-20, please. We will start with this simple reading from the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus said, “Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (16) You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? (17) Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. (19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (20) Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

The point of verse 16 is that people are known by their fruits. In verse 20, we are told again that you will know who people are by their fruits

Fruits is talking out how people act. For example, Are they selfish? Is the individual Full of themselves, as in prideful? Are they Flirty? Can you tell they are liars? Is their story ALWAYS better than yours? Do they want you to know how smart they are? Do they show off how much money they have?

Here is tonight’s new flash. If you can know the kind of people they are by what they do, they can also know the kind of person YOU ARE by what YOU do? If you can see them, they can see you.

So, that is not a news flash? Well, I am glad you knew that.

So, let’s change the question of the moment. What kind of fruit are you producing?

We all tend to hang around people like ourselves. So if you recognize someone in your group as being selfish, are you showing selfishness? If you are in the company of pride-

filled people, do you brag? Do people see that your story is constantly better than theirs? You get the idea, don't you?

What kind of fruit should we be showing off? Pineapples? Oranges? Kiwi?

The kind of fruit people should see in us should be the kind that is like Jesus. And his Father.
Jesus took care of the needs of the ill, families of the deceased, the blind, and the lepers. He loved them. Love would be a good fruit to be known for.

Jesus demonstrated how you could mistreat him and tell lies about him, but it would not stop him. Longsuffering would be a good fruit for people to see.

Jesus was kind and gentle to the Woman at the well in John 4. He could have abused her for her race, her religion, her 5 failed marriages. But his kindness and gentleness is easily seen. It would be good for people to see us being kind and gentle.

Paul told us this, "Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

If these are not the fruit you are known for, you need to be making changes right now. Remember what Jesus said in our text? " Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." If we are not known for our good fruits, we will be separated from the Christians going to heaven, and we will spend eternity with all the rotten fruit-bearing people who are going to hell.

If you need help making those changes, come and tell us. We will help. If you need to start your walk with Jesus tonight by expressing your faith in Jesus, repenting of your sins, and being immersed to have all your sins forgiven, we would love to help you. Whatever your spiritual need, let us know by coming while we stand and sing.

We do not want bad things to happen to you, so, if you don't know what to do first, call this number and leave a message. You can also send a text if you prefer. We also have a contact page.

Thanks for giving us a few minutes of your time. We hope you will come back by tomorrow. Until we can visit again, Goodbye for now.