

## **Fruit Bearer #1**

**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you the importance of spiritual fruit.

**Read:** Luke 6:43-45

**The word fruit is used repeatedly in the Bible. When used in connection with individuals or life-styles, fruit means the result or the product of that person's life. You will find it mentioned as the fruit of righteousness (James 3:18) or the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). These passages could just as easily be written- the result of righteousness- or the result of the Spirit. Discover the importance of bearing good fruit, as taught in Luke 6.**

1. Jesus describes the importance of fruit as an indicator of spirituality (43-44). What does He say about fruit trees as an illustration? Finish the sentence

- a) A good tree does not produce ....
- b) A bad tree does not produce ....
- c) Every tree is known by it's ....
- d) You cannot gather figs from ....
- e) You cannot pick grapes from ....

**There is a story about a pastor who was building a wooden trellis to support a climbing vine. As he pounded away, he saw that a little boy was watching him. The child didn't say a word, so the pastor kept on working, thinking the boy would just leave. But he didn't. Finally the pastor asked, "Well, son, are you trying to pick up some pointers on gardening?" "No," he replied, "I'm just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer."- This would be a great way to find out what kind of fruit he was really bearing!**

2. Jesus moves from trees to people in Luke 6:45. Take note of His observations on the source of fruit in people.

- a) What makes a person's fruit good, according to Jesus?
- b) What causes the fruit of an individual life to be evil?
- c) What did Jesus say reveals the character of the inner man?

3. A parable is a story intended to teach a moral or spiritual truth- Read Luke 13:6-9 and try to interpret, in your own words, the parable Jesus told (*one or two people*)

**Often our world fails to give people a second chance. But our God is persistent and hates giving up on his people. In Jesus' story, the owner of the vineyard was giving the fig tree a second chance. He was showing mercy to a plant that hadn't produced fruit for years. From this analogy, we see that God often shows mercy to us and gives us another chance after we go through periods of failure to thrive spiritually or produce good works for Him.**

4. In the light of this passage (Luke 6:43-45) how would you recommend approaching people who need help or correction?

5. What quality of fruit would your friends or acquaintances say you are producing: Grade A1? So-so-Wormy? Why? What do you need to do/ change to make it good? What would Jesus need to do to make it good?

**Pray for one another that the Lord will help each of you become a fruitful Christian.**

