

Remnant Life Church
November 13, 2016
**Putting Belief into Practice:
You Are What You Are**
Luke 6:43-45

READ – Luke 6:43-45

- We are looking at the 3rd of the 4 pillars that comprise Jesus' Sermon on the Plain as recorded by Luke in the 6th chapter
- The first pillar was love your enemies
- The second was do not judge other people (a log in your eye and sawdust in your neighbor's)
- In this passage Jesus is saying - What you do and what you say is who you are.
- Skip to the end of the story: we will only bear good fruit if we have been radically changed by Him. If Jesus has touched us, it will show in our lives.
- Jesus' focus in these verses is not the fruit it is the root of the tree or the heart of man that is most critical

- The first 2 segments of this teaching are focusing on others and how we treat them
- The second 2 segments are about our lives and our character as a reflection of the change that Jesus brings to our lives
- Important to note that the word "fruit" and "works" are not synonymous
 - The word "works" is used in two very different ways with the book of John more than any other
 - Jesus says of Himself doing the works of the Father
 - **John 10:25** - *Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The **works** I do in my Father's name testify about me,*
 - **John 10:27** - *Do not believe me unless I do the **works** of my Father.*
 - **Rom 3:20** - *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the **works** of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*
 - **Rom 11:6** - *And if by grace, then it cannot be based on **works**; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.*
- The difference between the two is the motive
 - Works, in the way that Paul addresses it, is the attempt of man to earn God's mercy and grace by what they do
 - *It is not by works but by grace that we are saved (Eph 2:9)*
 - Fruit is the outpouring of a person's actions by the presence of the Holy Spirit OR the absence of it
 - In these verses Jesus ties together the motive with the action

- What is good fruit and what is bad fruit?
 - The good is a person fit for use by God – what does that mean?
 - Available

- Humble
 - A servant
 - The bad
 - Literal translation of bad fruit is not just rotten but unfit for use
 - Self-centered
 - Judgmental
- What are the values of knowing the good fruit from the bad? Is it important to recognize them?
 - It helps us to recognize and avoid false teachers
 - **2 Peter 2:1-3** - *But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ³ In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*
 - What is the fruit of the person leading the ministry?
 - What is the fruit of the ministry itself?
 - How do they conduct themselves as individuals and as a whole? (Katerina in Lancaster)
 - We can better discern the wolves from the sheep
 - **Matt 7:15** - *Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.*
 - satan wants to infiltrate the church today to bring destruction from within
 - By judging the fruit in our own lives (last week) we can then ask God to help us make the right adjustments to straighten what has become crooked
 - **Psalm 51:10** - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
 - David is not only asking God to cleanse his heart of sin but to bring him again to the place of producing good fruit in his life
- Jesus then points out one aspect of our lives in particular meaning it should get special attention
 - **Luke 6:45b** – *For out of the overflow of the heart his mouth speaks.*
- We have all heard the expression you are what you eat
- In this we are saying you are what you say
 - That should concern some people
 - Many tell people they are Christian but then talk like anything but
- What is the pattern of behavior relating to what we say?:
 - **Prov 21:23** - *Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.*
 - **Prov 13:3** - *He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*
 - **Prov 10:19** - *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

Prov 17:27-28 - He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

- Do you know what I take out of these verses more than anything else?
 - Don't talk so much!
 - Apply the filter between the brain and the mouth!
 - Not everything that you think needs to be said!
- *Psalm 19:14 - May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer*

- Where do the words of my mouth originate?
 - Out of the overflow of my heart
 - If there is blessing in my heart then I will reflect that with my words
 - If there is evil and strife in my heart then I will reflect that too

- This morning I would like for you to do a verbal gut-check for me before we leave
 - How do people hear me?
 - This will take some courage and humility on your part
 - We rarely accurately hear ourselves correctly

- So sometime before you come back next Sunday ask someone who knows you well the following questions
 1. Am I more positive than negative or more negative than positive in my words?
 2. Do people hear Jesus in the way I talk?
 3. Do I listen in a conversation more than I talk?
 4. Do I sometimes hurt people's feelings with the way I talk?
 5. Do I talk too much?

- What will you do now with what you are told – to the answers to these questions?
 - You can ignore them
 - You can argue and defend yourself
 - You can make excuses
 - You can take it to the Lord and ask Him to bring change to your heart so that your actions and your words will reflect Him