
What's the Fruit? (Good or Evil)

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

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Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: What's the Fruit? (Good or Evil)

New Series Messages: "The Fruit of the Holy Spirit"

- **How do we know the Holy Spirit is Working?**
- Scripture: Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- Subject: Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)
 - Where's the Ability of the Fruit? (Mission)
 - Where's the Authority of the Fruit? (Permission)
 - Where's the Anointing of the Fruit? (Power)

Lesson Text

Matthew 7:15–20 (AV)¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Romans 12:21 (AV)²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Introduction

Let's continue our new series by moving from asking the questions "Where's the Fruit?"; to the next question about our fruit, "What?"

(Video: Play Wendy's Commercial Again, "Where's the Beef? From 1984)

A lot of people have confused the biblical role of judging with colloquial definition of being judgmental; even basing it on the first verse of our main lesson text.

Matthew 7:1 (AV)¹ Judge not, that ye be not judged.

And so they say, "Don't Judge Me"! But the first part of this chapter simply means to not judge a person's external situation without knowing their internal condition.

Our lesson text clearly teaches us is that we judge and are judged based on the fruit we produce.

Matthew 7: ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets,

The church is filled with false prophets, presenting themselves as sheep but are actually wolves. And the only way to determine the sheep from the wolves, the good from the evil is their fruit.

So now we move from asking the question "Where's the Fruit?" to "What kind of fruit are you producing?"

If the tree is corrupted with evil, it will produce Thorns (Sorrow) and Thistles (Misery); but if the tree is filled with good, it will produce Grapes (Blessings) and Figs (Needs).

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: What's the Fruit? (Good or Evil)

“Are we as source of Blessing or Sorrow, Needs of Misery, Prey or Predator?”

I. Grapes or Thorns? (Blessings or Sorrow)

Matthew 7: ¹⁶ **Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?**

Grapes symbolize blessings: wealth, abundance, prosperity and fertility

Thorns on the other hand denote sin, sorrow and hardship; it represents pain.

Are we a source of blessings or a source of sorrow? This deals with the condition of people.

How many of you have every felt that someone was a thorn in your side? A friend that betrayed you, a workplace that disappointed you, life that depressed you, something that hurt you.

2 Corinthians 12:7 (AV)⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Although these thorns are used by God to make us into who we are and who we are to become; it is imperative that we who are the called do not become instruments of thorns ourselves.

Corruptible with Thorns of the World or Incorruptible with Grapes of the Spirit

Matthew 7: ¹⁷ **Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.**

When our Tree is Corrupted with Thorns, the fruit we produce is Sorrow (Evil Fruit)

But when our Tree is filled with Grapes, the fruit we produce is Blessings (Good Fruit)

Proverbs 10: ²² The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

II. Figs or Thistles? (Needs or Misery)

Matthew 7: ¹⁶ **Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?**

The fig is an important food source; it denotes nourishment, sustenance, or fuel.

Thistles symbolize pain, protection, and pride. As a food source, the thistle was a dish of the poor and thus a symbol of poverty and pain; denoting something miserable and painful.

Are we a source of nourishment or a source of misery? This deals with needs of people.

The reason why people are in such a desperate condition (discouraged, dishearten, depressed) is because they are in a state of hunger needing to be fed.

When people are in a desperate situation, the last thing they need is a false prophet with false promises that leave them even more hungry and more miserable.

Corruptible with Thistles of the World or Incorruptible with Figs of the Spirit

Matthew 7: ¹⁸ **A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.**

When our Tree is Corrupted with Thistles, the fruit we produce pain and misery (Evil Fruit)

But when our Tree is filled with Figs, the fruit we produce is nourishment (Good Fruit).

John 10:10 (AV)¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Philippians 4:19 (AV)¹⁹ **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

III. Sheep or Wolves? (Prey or Predator)

Matthew 7: ¹⁵ **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**

Sheep are symbolic of God's people, willing to suffer and sacrifice

Wolves are emblematic of treachery and cruelty, seeking to devour and scatter God's people.

The wolves are the predators of this world that are here to steal, kill, and destroy us.

John 8:44 (AV)⁴⁴ **Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

Corruptible as Wolves, or Incorruptible as Lambs

The wolves want to kill us, but God sent the Lamb of Jesus Christ to save us. And now that we are saved, we have become Lambs willing to suffer and sacrifice.

Matthew 16:24 (AV)²⁴ **Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.***

The sheep are the Prey (P.R.E.Y) who Pray (P.R.A.Y)!

When we pray, our fruit conquerors: Romans 8:36–37 (AV)³⁶ **As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

When we pray, our fruit overcomes: Romans 12:21 (AV)²¹ **Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

When we pray, our fruit can't be defeated: Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ **No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;**

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: What's the Fruit? (Good or Evil))

Study Tools:

- Sermon Video and Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/>
- Bibles, Commentaries, and Dictionnaires: <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>
- Book Source: ["The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit"](#); Read the Following Chapters:
 - "Part 2: Fruit of the Spirit"
 - "The Fruit of the Spirit vs. Gifts of the Spirit"
 - "Perpetrating"
 - "Your Relationship with God is based on your Fruit"

Lesson Text

- Matthew 7:15–20, Romans 12:21

Sermon Outline

- I. Grapes or Thorns? (Blessings or Sorrow)
- II. Figs or Thistles? (Needs or Misery)
- III. Sheep or Wolves? (Prey or Predator)

Questions

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Reflection: All of us are walking epistles of influence...
 - a. Other than family, who are you influencing [positively and/or negatively]?
 - b. Who are you allowing to influence you [positively and/or negatively]?
2. Share your "take-away(s)" from Sunday's sermon. Why do you think those thoughts stuck with you?

II. Into the Bible

1. Read Luke 13:6-9. What spiritual lessons do you see in this parable about the unfruitful fig tree? Relate the story to the Fruit of the Spirit and this past Sunday's sermon.
2. Use Psalm 1:1-3 to describe what you think is the life environment that will make us healthy trees producing good fruit.

III. Life Application

1. Based on the principles taught in the sermon, how would you respond to someone who accused you of "judging" his lifestyle which is not in alignment with the word of God? This could be a Christian or a non-Christian who is making the accusation.
2. What should your mindset be when you have a thorn in your life? How can you guard against being an instrument of thorns to others?

Prayer:

- **Prayer Request:**
- **Personal Prayer:**