

Sermon Outline January 13, 2013

"We are in God's Eyes like: Fruit Trees and Treasure Chests"

Luke 6:43-45

⁴³ "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ "For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (Luke 6:43-45 NKJ)

I. What are we like in God's eyes? We are like fruit trees and treasure Chests! What a JOY!

1. We are like fruit trees –

A. In contrast to chaff which is blown away –

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. ⁴ The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:1-6 NKJ)

B. Stable, rooted - :3

C. Planted, grounded in good places by God - :3

D. Full of LIFE and prosperous rather than dead, dry and lifeless & worthless - :3-4

(1) We need to be ROOTED in Christ –

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ **rooted** and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7 NKJ)

(2) We who are in Christ are meant to bear the fruit of the Spirit –

But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (Galatians 5:22 NKJ)

(3) God's Word is compared to SEED –

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. (1 Peter 1:23-25 NKJ)

A. Notice these verses also compare men to plants – "grass" "flower of the grass" - Quite temporary things!

B. Yet, God's Word and the life it gives as SEED, abides FOREVER –

C. Peter who wrote this knew this –

⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life.** (John 6:66-68 NKJ)

2. We are like treasure chests –

A. We are capable of containing the best things –

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:7 NKJ)

B. Yet, because of sin, our hearts are usually and naturally filled with the WORST –

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matthew 15:19 NKJ)

C. The evil, that we see in the world, is that "evil treasure" which Christ speaks comes out of evil hearts, all over the world –

² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! (Rev 18:2 NKJ)

We sing: "Let every heart prepare Him room" and yet Christ, His Gospel, the things of God, often get the mangers of our hearts ... for there is no room in the Inn!

II. We need to cultivate fruit –

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are God's building.* (1Corinthians 3:6-9 NKJ)

Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For *it is* time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. (Hosea 10:12 NKJ)

How do we cultivate the fruit of the Spirit –

1. *We break up our fallow ground, by confession of and repentance from SIN –*

⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

⁶ "Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷ "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Luke 8:5-8 NKJ)

The Sower (Christ) or His ministers sows the SEED (God's Word) into hearts --- yet some hearts are full of the rocks and thorns of the sins and cares of the world!

We need to, by confession and repentance, asking for God's help, root out these weeds, the thorns and bramble bushes, which grow naturally from a sinful heart, much like weeds grow from our gardens!

2. *We need to plant and water our hearts with the Seed of God's Word, we need to PRAY God gives the increase –*

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You! (Psalm 119:11 NKJ)

John Bunyan said: "This Book will keep me from sin or sin will keep me from this Book."

3. *We need to encourage and be encouraged to this by each other –*

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJ)

III. *We need to SEEK treasure –*

⁴⁵ "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good;

1. *That is Heavenly TREASURE –*

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matthew 6:19-21 NKJ)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Colossians 3:1-2 NKJ)

2. *Seek wisdom while you can find her –*

²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, (Proverbs 1:20-29 NKJ)

3. *Count God's Word a TREASURE –*

The judgments of the LORD *are true and righteous* altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. (Psalm 19:9-10 NKJ)

4. *Make your heart and mind into storehouses for good things –*

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is any* virtue and if *there is anything* praiseworthy-- meditate on these things. (Philippians 4:8 NKJ)

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