

For wheat farmers, one of their main weed-control challenges is Black-Oats. Wheat and Black-Oats come from not only the same family, but the same sub-family. And for that reason, it's gotta be a pretty special herbicide to kill one without killing the other.

But it also means that (particularly when the plants are young) it's hard to tell them apart. But if you have a close look, you can tell. A wheat leaf twists in a clockwise direction, and a Black-Oats leaf twists in an anti-clockwise direction.

But apart from that, they do look very similar.

But you really notice the difference, when they go to fruit. The seed-head is entirely different. And so if a Black-Oats seed-head appears, it means it's been Black-Oats all along. A Wheat plant doesn't reach the boot stage and then all of a sudden decide to push out a Black-Oats seed-head.

That's what Jesus is getting at when He's talking about good trees and bad trees. A good tree doesn't give you bad fruit. And a bad tree isn't going to give you good fruit. And the example He gives is, "You don't pick figs off of a thorn bush" (Now, me personally: I'm not in favour of classing a "fig" as a good fruit)... But I'm quite happy with the 2nd example: you don't pick grapes off of a Bramble bush...

But you get the point don't you? I will produce what I am, and not something different to what I am...

And Jesus uses this same analogy, (at different times) to illustrate **different** topics.

The best-known example, is when Jesus is warning us against false prophets/teachers. Of a false teacher, He says, “By their fruit you will know them”.

Is the teacher:

- true to God’s Word? ;or
do they put their own spin on it?
- worldly in what they value and in what they teach? ; or
Do they truly focus on the Kingdom of Heaven?
- displaying the fruit of the spirit in their own lives
(love; joy; peace; patience; kindness; goodness;
faithfulness; gentleness; self-control)

Alright, when it comes to teachers – whether they’re a Godly teacher or a false teacher – by their fruit you will know them... They might be able to lead a few astray, but if we watch them long enough, their true character will ultimately be revealed for what it is.

Alright, that’s the best-known way that Jesus uses this analogy, but that’s **not** how He’s using it today...

How **is** He using it? He’s using it in relation to “Who, His true disciples are” – And it causes us to inspect ourselves: “Am I a true disciple of Jesus? or Am I just along for a look and a listen, but not really following?”

So, let's have a little recap:

We're in the section of Luke that's known as "The Sermon on the Plain". It's **one** sermon. And in many ways, it's very similar, to The Sermon that Jesus gave on the **Mount**" which we find in the Gospel of Matthew... But there's also some important differences. And this is **one** of the differences. In Matthew, He's talking about how to tell a false teacher. In **Luke**, He's talking about who His true disciples are.

Last week we followed vv36-42. And in it, Jesus took us on a journey to personal holiness. Disciples of Jesus will become like their Heavenly Father. And we know that a disciple won't be above his teacher, but Jesus told us that when a Disciple is fully trained, he **will** be like his teacher.

And then He gave us the parable of noticing the speck in our brother's eye, but completely oblivious to the log in our own eye. **You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.**

Alright, the journey Jesus has brought us on, is a journey to personal Christ-Likeness... As you and I follow Christ and learn from Christ (as disciples do), by the Holy Spirit inside of us, we will be becoming "like Christ". And it's a personal holiness rather than pointing the finger at everybody else....

And the first word of today's reading is: "**For**".

Now, the word “for” does **not** mean we’re now leaving one topic and moving onto the next one... It’s a connecting word – actually it’s more than “connecting” – It’s the because – **This** is the reason we should be on the journey to personal Christ-Likeness...

It’s because good trees don’t bear bad fruit... By the blood of Jesus and by the saving mercy of God, we have been made good. And if we are good, we won’t bear bad fruit...

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil

What do we treasure??? If I treasure what’s evil, I will produce evil...

But what is the “good treasure”? What is Jesus talking about here?

Well, let me put it this way: If I am a Christian, what is the mark of being a Christian?

Is it:

- that I’ve been baptised?

No. There are a lot of people who have been baptised, who are not true Christians.

- because I’ve said the sinners prayer?

No. Being a Christian is more than a matter of words;

- because I go to church? Probably not – there’s a lot of unbelievers who go to church...

How does God brand/mark those who are truly His??? He deposits a treasure in our heart – He fills us with His Holy

Spirit... This is the deposit God makes into us – this is the Guarantee that we are His – God Himself (by His Holy Spirit) comes inside of us and lives inside of us. There is no greater honour/treasure...

Some people believe that the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit are the **gifts** of the spirit (speaking in tongues; prophesying; gift of the gab; having a charismatic personality; being an attractive person)? – is that the evidence? No. All of that can be faked or mimicked by the Devil...

How do we know if a person is filled with the Holy Spirit? They produce the fruit **of** the Spirit. The very character of Jesus, develops in those who are truly His disciples. (love; joy; peace; patience; kindness; goodness; faithfulness; gentleness; self-control)

And at this point, Jesus makes a special mention of what we say. **for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

Did you know that your mouth, is your overflow point of your heart?

When it rains, my rainwater fills up, and it overflows. What comes out of the overflow spout? Well, rain-water (of course), because that's what the tank is full of.

When a septic tank fills up and reaches the overflow point and drains to the soakage pit, what comes out of that? Is it rain-water? No – it's decomposed poo & wee (because that's what it's full of)...

And so, if my mouth is the overflow of my heart, if when I speak, my words are:

- crude and filthy, what's my heart filled with?
Crud and filth.
- angry and bitter, what's my heart filled with?
anger and bitterness
- judgmental and condemning, what's my heart filled with?
judgment and condemnation...

But, if my words are:

- kind and loving, what's my heart filled with?
kindness and love.
- merciful and gracious, what's my heart filled with?
mercy and grace...

And so when it comes to self-awareness of where we're at with God:

- the words we use;
- the conversations we hold;
- the jokes we make/laugh at,

they reveal a lot about our spiritual state. What our heart is filled with, is what will overflow through the mouth. And so if our hearts are filled with praise and thanksgiving, that is what will come out. Worship...

So, if this section is about “Who His true disciples are”, what makes the difference?

Why is it that some folk make a decision, “I’m going to be a Christian:

- they believe Jesus died for their sins;
- they prayed, “God forgive me of my short-comings”
- They might have even been baptised...

Why is it that so many people will get that far, but:

- their professed faith seems to make no difference in their life;
- they don’t seem to follow Jesus;
- their behaviour does not change; and
- they’re no different to people of the world?

Why is it that Christ-likeness is missing, and worldliness abounds???

Bad trees bear bad fruit... You see, that’s the difference between a hearer and a doer...

Jesus hit the nail on the head when He said, ⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

And then he told the story of the wise man who built his house upon the firm foundation of the rock, and the foolish man who **didn’t** dig down for his foundations – just built his house on the top of the ground. And how, when the creek comes up, breaks its banks, and when the flood water hits, the house on

the firm foundation stood, while the one with no foundations fell...

Now, when most people read that, their response is, “I’ve gotta build my life on the foundation of the Word of God – it’s about knowing stuff...”

That’s exactly the opposite of what it means...

The foolish man **heard** the words of Jesus – he **knew** the words of Jesus,, but he **didn’t do them**... Building on the firm foundation of Jesus is hearing the Word **and** doing it.

Jesus has been teaching us what it looks like to be His disciple. We have no right to call Jesus “Lord”, if we do **not** do what He says.

For Jesus to be “Lord” means Jesus is “Master/Boss/King of Kings”... And so, if I sing a song, naming Jesus “Lord”, and then not do what He says – it’s a lie...

Right at the start of Jesus' Sermon v18, we were told that a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all... [over the place].... ¹⁸ ... came to hear him

And now at the end of the sermon, Jesus says: ⁴⁷ **Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them** — That’s wise. That’s digging down to the foundation...

To come and hear the words of Jesus, and then **not** do them – that’s just stupid.

And that’s what makes a true disciple. They come to Jesus, not only to hear His words, but to follow Jesus, and to **follow** His teaching.

You know, the teaching that Jesus has given in this sermon:

- the prideful side of us says, I’m not that bad really;
- the worldly side of us says, “That’s just too hard – I can’t do that”;
- The lazy side of us says “Big job – the grace of God will do” ...

But the Holy Spirit in us says, “Lord Jesus, come alive in me. Display Your grace and mercy in my life. I’m going to do my best to follow you, but Lord, forgive me when I fall. And as I follow You, and as You transform me, may I become more and more Christ-like every day.

And this is my prayer for every one of us – for our fellowship here of Bush Disciples, (and for everyone who is listening to this teaching online)... That we would be disciples in the true sense of the word – not only hearing the teaching of Jesus, but doing it. Living by the Spirit, with the fruit of the Spirit evident in our lives, more and more, every day.

Amen.