

The New Heart

Luke 6:43-45

Introduction

We are all born into this world with an evil heart and a propensity to do many bad things. So, if we are to bear good fruit and live in obedience to Christ, we must have a new heart. We need a heart transplant. In this passage, Jesus describes what it looks like to have a good heart and to live out the good things that come from that new heart.

Context

Overall, there are several things happening in this chapter.

- First off, the chapter begins with a discussion between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning the Sabbath. *Luke 6:1-11*
- In the next section, we see that Jesus appoints the twelve disciples or apostles, selecting them from all of His disciples. *Luke 6:12-16*
- Now, starting in verse 17 we see Jesus with the twelve, along with a large group of His disciples as well as a great number of other people from various places around the area. *Luke 6:17*
- We also see that they had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. Even those with evil spirits were cured, and people were trying to touch Jesus because of His power and ability to heal them. *Luke 6:18-19*
- At this point, Jesus begins to teach His disciples about various topics. It is important to note that “disciples” here most likely refers to the large group of people that were followers of Jesus and true believers, not just “the twelve.” *Luke 6:20-42*

Bad Trees Turned Good

Jesus uses the metaphor of good and bad trees which bear good and bad fruit, to describe a good man and an evil man who, out of their good or bad heart, do good or bad things. Jesus makes this connection clear when He explains that out of the overflow of his heart, his mouth speaks, which is an example of his audible fruit. *Luke 6:43-45, Matthew 12:33-37*

So, what does all this mean for us?

- First of all, we have to come to grips with the fact that we are all born as “bad trees,” with a “bad heart” and the desire and ability to produce lots of “bad fruit.” In other words, we are all born sinful, with a heart that lives to hate God and to do everything that is contrary to His commands. *Romans 5:12-14, Romans 3:9-18, Romans 1:28-32, Ephesians 2:1-3, Titus 3:3*
- So what now? Well, as believers we know that we are ultimately “bad trees” turned good. Through Christ we have been given a new heart, with a desire and the ability to love God and want to live in obedience to Him. *Romans 5:12-21, Romans 3:21-26, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-8*

Conclusion

As a people changed by Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we have been given a new heart that has reconciled us to God. This new heart is in love with God and lives to please Him in every word, action, and thought. We are truly a new creation, a “good tree” bearing “good fruit.”