

Good Fruit
Matthew 7:15 – 23
The Laurel Center
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Main Idea: Jesus expects a good heart, good character and good works.

Introduction

Some people believe that if you have good works you will go to heaven. When asked if they know they'll go to heaven they point to good works or maybe that there are good person and have a good heart as the criteria for why they in heaven. But Jesus taught that it is more than these things. He tells us that good works alone are not enough. We must also have a good heart and good character. Let's take a look at how Jesus tells us to live our lives for him.

Matthew 7:15–20

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **16** You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. **18** A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

- I.** We must display good works and good character.
 - A Good fruit means good character.
 - B Good fruit means good works.

Matthew 7:21-24

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ **23** And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

- II.** We must demonstrate a good heart.
 - A All our good works will not save us.
 - B We must personally know Christ.

Conclusion

Jesus shows us that good works are not enough. It takes an overhaul of the whole person not just the outside. God must replace our human hearts with good, godly hearts. When he makes the new creature in Christ it is not just a change our behavior and the works we do. He changes our character and our hearts. May we look on the inside as well as the outside to please Jesus with our whole person until he returns.