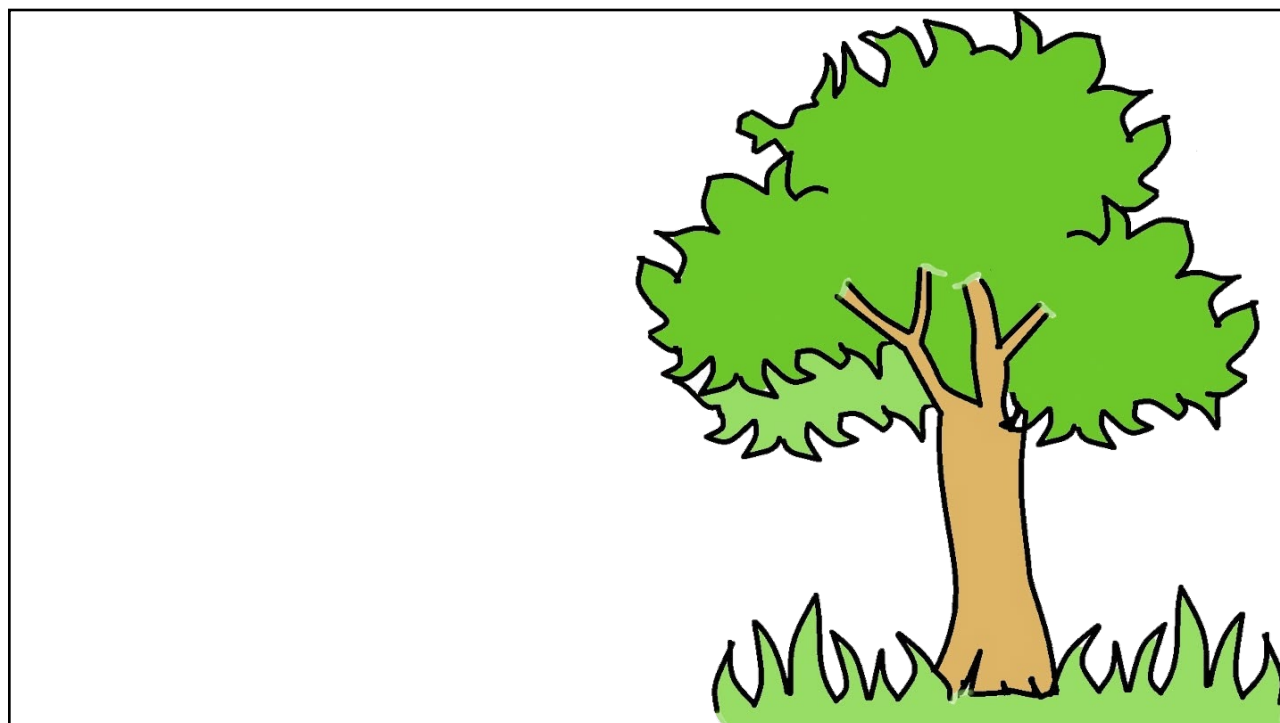




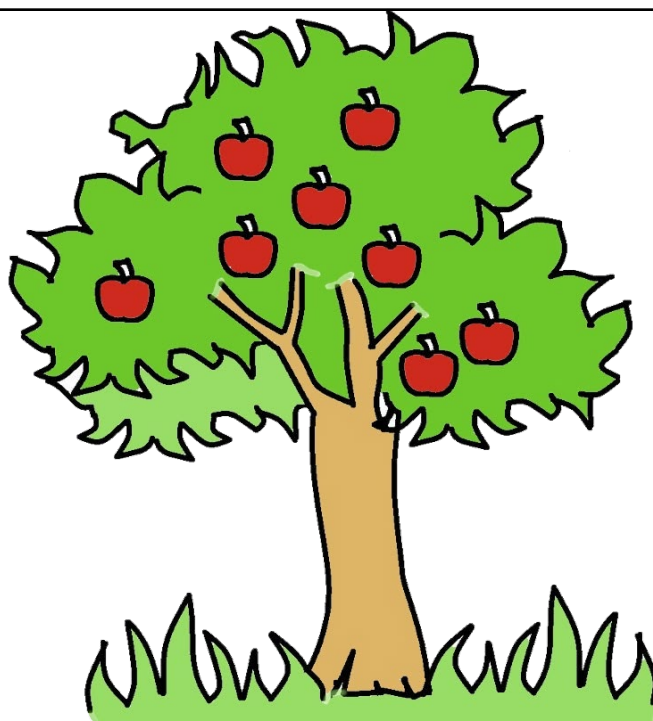
1

Jesus said... (Luke 6:43-44)

"No good tree bears bad fruit,
nor does a bad tree bear good
fruit.

**Each tree is recognized by
its own fruit.**

People do not pick figs from
thornbushes, or grapes from
briers."



2

What might be unmistakable evidence that someone is...

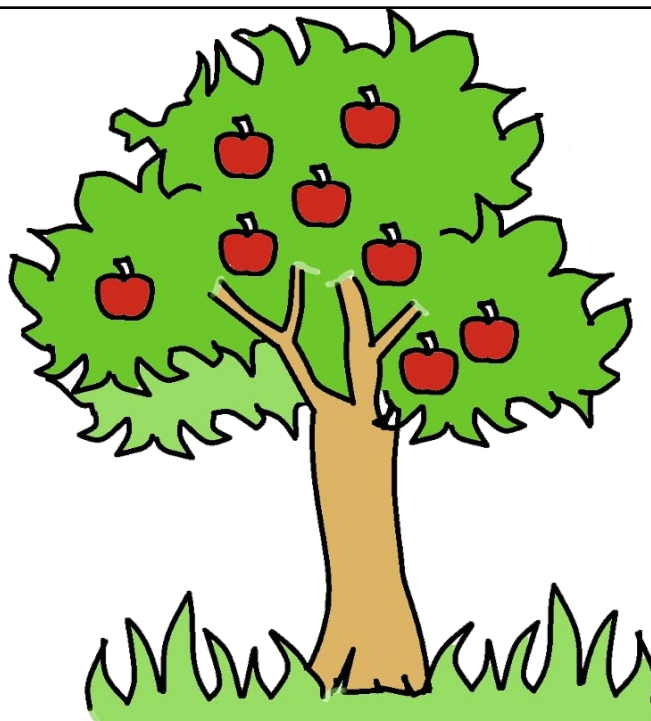
- An artist
- An accountant
- A cook
- An athlete
- A musician
- A student
- A teacher
- **A Christian**



3

Jesus said... (Luke 6:45)

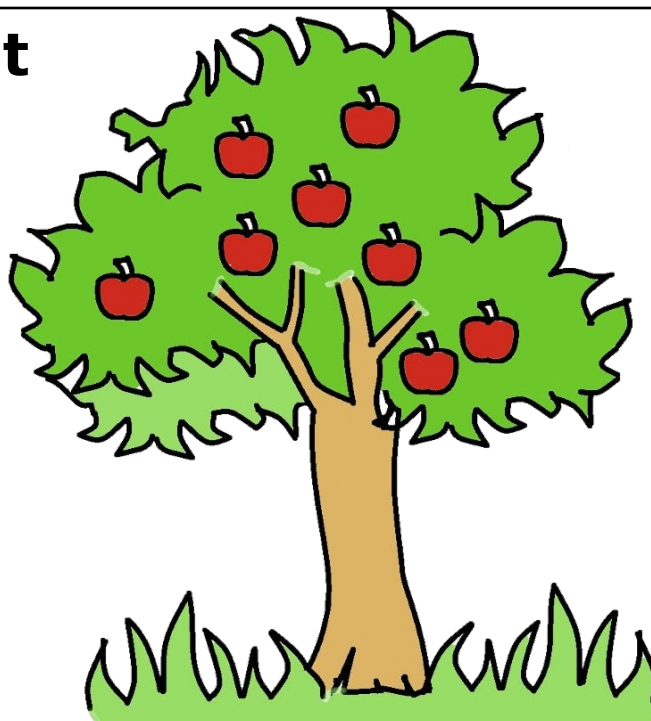
"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and **an evil man brings evil things** out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."



4

Abundant Fruit

John 15:1-17
ref.ly/Joh15;niv



5

God wants fruitfulness!

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that **bear fruit** with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so." Genesis 1:11

God blessed them and said, "**Be fruitful and increase in number** and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." Genesis 1:22

God blessed them and said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase in number**; fill the earth and subdue it..." Genesis 1:28

6

God wants fruitfulness!

In days to come Jacob will take root,
Israel will bud and blossom
 and fill all the world with fruit.

Isaiah 27:8

Jacob, Israel = God's people

7

But people failed to be fruitful...

I will sing for the one I love
 a song about his vineyard:
 My loved one had a vineyard
 on a fertile hillside.
 He dug it up and cleared it of stones
 and planted it with the choicest vines.
 He built a watchtower in it
 and cut out a winepress as well.
 Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
 but it yielded only bad fruit.

Isaiah 5:1-2

8

John 15:1-17

Jesus said...

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no **fruit**, while every branch that does bear **fruit** **he prunes** so that it will be even **more fruitful**. ³ You are already **clean** because of the word I have spoken to you.
⁴ **Remain** in me, as I also **remain** in you. No branch can bear **fruit** by itself; it must **remain** in the vine. Neither can you bear **fruit** unless you **remain** in me.

9

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain** in me and I in you, you will bear **much fruit**; **apart from me you can do nothing**. ⁶ If you do not **remain** in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you **remain** in me and **my words remain in you**, **ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you**. ⁸ **This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

10

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

11

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

12

The Big Idea

A Christian =
 active, personal, obedient, loving others
 someone who lives in vital relationship with Christ
 bringing abundant fruit to God's glory



13

The Goal: A Mature Christian

With **new life from God**

in **the Gospel**

we **love** (up, in, out)

and **join His works** (creation, redemption, renewal)

14

What should we do?

Live daily and personally in Christ

- In “vital relationship” = active, personal, full of life
 - “continue in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus, characterized by trust, prayer, obedience, and joy.”
 - pursue God’s Spirit in us richly (be filled), with His Words guiding us and empowering us
 - play “catch” with God more often!
- Obey
 - Especially: Love one another sacrificially
- Accept God’s discipline as His love for us

15

What should we do?

Live daily and personally in Christ

Pray for and pursue **lots of fruit**

- Fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, ...”
 - Pineapple Story
 - Thirsty
- New believers
- *Even more in others*

16

Making it Real

Remaining in Jesus includes making time for Jesus

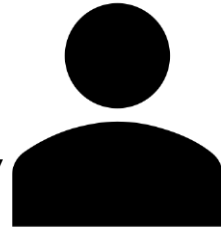
- “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.” Psalm 5:3
- “Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress
and he hears my voice.” Psalm 55:17
- Pray:
“I want your joy, and I want it to be complete!”
 - Help me to obey today: self-sacrificial love,
like Christ’s love for me

17

What might be unmistakable evidence
that someone is a **Christian**?

Fruit that lasts

- **Fruit of the Spirit:** Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
- **God-likeness:** Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, love
- **New & transformed lives:** loving people closer to Jesus



How does fruit come?

- Vital connection with Jesus: praying, listening to the Bible and the Spirit, obeying, loving, ...

18