

SERMON NOTES

April 22 & 23, 2023

Debunked: Good and Bad Fruit
Matthew 7:15-20

Three myths:

1. I should only focus on _____.

Matthew 7:5

a. Producing good fruit begins with _____.

2. _____ will produce good fruit.

Matthew 15:7-9

b. Producing good fruit involves _____
_____.

3. I get to be _____.

Jonah 4:2

c. Producing good fruit means _____
_____.

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Life Steps

Debunked: Good and Bad Fruit | April 22 & 23, 2023

Monday:

Matthew 7:15-20

Reflect: When you read this passage, what are the first thoughts you have? How difficult is it for you to consider the branches in your tree before you consider the branches in other trees? Why do you suppose this is?

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, help me prune branches in my tree today. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)

Tuesday:

Matthew 7:1-5

Reflect: How we see others is impacted by how well we know ourselves, how often we reflect on our own sin. When was the last time you remember your own sin keeping you from having a healthy view of others?

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, help me prune branches in my tree today. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)

Wednesday:

Matthew 15:1-9

Reflect: Off the top of your head, list some of the rules you would say go with being a disciple of Jesus. Think of how these rules begin from a place of desire you have to be in relationship with Jesus.

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, give me the desire to follow Jesus closely today. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)

Thursday:

Hosea 6:4-6 | Matthew 12:7-8

Reflect: There are reasons why we have rules, rituals, and practices in the life of the church. But when we stop following Jesus daily, and simply follow the rules, we forget this command of God: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." What is one practice in the church you follow that you have lost some of the meaning for?

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, give me the desire to follow Jesus closely today. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)

Friday:

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Reflect: Jonah knew God's grace was stronger than the evil of his enemy, the Ninevites. And so he didn't want them to repent. Who are the people you struggle with when it comes to receiving God's grace?

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, help me see the bad fruit in other trees as opportunities for your redemption. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)

Saturday:

Luke 19:1-9

Reflect: As you think about all of Jesus' stories, what is your favorite story of Jesus redeeming a sinner? What experience of grace in the gospels is most powerful for you?

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, help me see the bad fruit in other trees as opportunities for your redemption. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)

Sunday:

Psalms 123

Reflect: Pruning our trees of bad fruit will never cease. Being a disciple of Jesus means beginning with humility, recognizing the need for God's mercy, and being able to will it to those we don't like. As you prepare for worship today, carry gratitude with you that God still calls us into relationship.

Reflect: God of grace and mercy, help me prune branches in my tree today. (Practice silent listening. Journal what you sense God saying to you.)