

Trees & Treasures - Luke 6:43-45 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

- Jesus uses an illustration about trees to reveal a truth about human beings. His point about trees is that you can know a tree by its fruit. For instance, if you see a tree loaded with apples you know the tree is an apple tree, and if you see a bush loaded with thorns you know it's a thorn bush.
- In the same way Jesus points out that people will produce actions according to their nature. This teaching went against the common view of His day. The Pharisees taught that what person did, made him/her good or bad. For example evil deeds made a person bad, while righteous deed made a person good. For them it was the outside that determined everything. Jesus counters this teaching and reveals the problem is not with outward behavior, but with the heart! Evil deeds are a result of an evil heart, while righteous deeds are a result of a good heart that has been transformed by the grace of Jesus.
- Q: (Personal reflection question) What does your life say about your heart?
 - A. Does your actions on a daily basis testify that you love and serve Jesus?
 - B. Or do your actions on a daily basis testify that you love sin and self?

Houses - Luke 6:46 - “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? **47** Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **48** he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. **49** But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

- (Family discussion questions below)

- Q: Why is calling Jesus “Lord, Lord” and then not obeying Him an oxymoron?
 - A: Because if Jesus is your Lord, meaning “Master” you will obey Him.
- Q: What is the difference between the two men in this story?
 - A: The first guy came, heard, and did what Jesus said. The second guy only heard Jesus.
- Q: What is the difference between the two houses?
 - A: One house has a foundation and the other does not.
- Q: Which house belongs to which man?
 - The house with the foundation belongs to the man who came, heard, and did. The house without the foundation belongs to the man who only heard.
- Q: What happened to the two houses when the floods came?
 - A: The house with the foundation stood, the house without a foundation fell.
- Q: How does this apply to our lives?
 - A: It reminds us that our lives must be built on the foundation of Christ and His Word. This means not merely hearing from Jesus, but applying His Words to our lives and living them.
- Q: What do floods represent?
 - A: The various storms of life. Hard times we all face.
- Q: What’s one thing this week we can all do to make our foundation stronger?
 - (Discuss this questions as a family)