

Fruit Inventory Today's Reading Luke 6:43-49



The other day, six of us (our family plus a friend) piled into our 1992 Ford Taurus and went to one of those U-pick fruit farms. We wanted to harvest three kinds of berries: red raspberries, black raspberries, and blueberries. The nice lady at the farm pointed us in the direction of the different berry patches. But you know, even though it might have taken a bit longer, we would have been able to find those respective areas of the farm. Do you know how? The red raspberry patch had plants with red raspberries on them. The black raspberry patch had plants with black raspberries on them. The blueberry patch had plants with blueberries on them.

That's not rocket science, I know! But that is the essence of the simple principle Jesus outlined in verse 44: **fruit reveals true identity**. It is true of plants and of people. Among people, the fruit of their lives is demonstrated

in thoughts, words, and actions. Given enough time and variety of situations, the genuine identity of any person becomes visible through those three. It is God's desire that you increasingly bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithful, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23). In fact, God, through His Spirit, makes that possible for us.

If you look again at verse 45, you will discover one more truth about the fruit of your life. The fruit of your life flows out of the inventory of your heart. You produce the kinds of things that you allow to be stored up in your heart. In other words, there is a direct relationship between input and output. That means that you must exercise caution about the kinds of things that you read, listen to, watch, or allow your heart to dwell on. Meanwhile, when you intentionally store up the treasure of God's word in your heart, you will discover that the corresponding fruit of God's word will increasingly flow from you. Bible memorization, then, is one of the primary ways by which you can create a fruit inventory from which you will draw.

What Bible verse(s) are you currently working on? How is it going with Romans 6:23?