

What You Produce

Ready:

“For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren’t gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush. A good person produces good out of the good stored up in his heart. An evil person produces evil out of the evil stored up in his heart, for his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.” – Luke 6:44-45

Set

When coaches go recruiting, they usually show up planning to watch a select few players they have chosen based on the results of their athletic ability. They are there to see what their athletic ability produces. Sports are highly results-driven because these results usually tell what this athlete will be able to produce. Coaches see a direct relationship between the two.

To know if a tree produces fruit, I don’t have to drill into the tree’s center and look inside. All I have to do is look at the fruit. The same goes for a person. You don’t have to open up their heart to tell if it’s good or evil; simply look at what it produces. You might have heard this phrase when someone is called out for their actions, “Yeah, but you don’t know what is inside my heart.” This phrase is often used when someone doesn’t want to be judged for their outward actions and tries to make the argument that their heart is pure even if their actions are not.

Scripture tells us otherwise. In Luke 6, Jesus is linking the condition of our hearts to our outward speech. Jesus says we can inform the state of our hearts by how we act in this world. Just as I can tell the health of a tree by its fruit, we should be able to tell the internal condition of a person’s spirit by their actions.

As you examine your heart today, are your actions lining up with the state of your heart? If not, look to Christ, the only one who can remove and replace our stone heart with a new heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)

Go

- What are three things you produced today on the field/court and in your life? Are they beneficial?
- What do you think it means to have a good heart?
- Do you believe that the heart is a direct link to our actions?

Workout

Psalm 51:10

Matthew 12:33-35

Overtime

“Lord God, we come to You knowing You have the only pure heart. We acknowledge our shortcomings and our sins and ask for Your forgiveness. Please, God, examine our hearts and remove anything that makes us produce actions and words that don’t glorify Your Kingdom. Draw us near to You and help our hearts align with Yours. Amen.”



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