

Sunday, 25 November 2007

Luke 6:43-45

Luke 6:43-45 "A healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by the fruit it bears; you do not pick figs from thorn bushes or gather grapes from bramble bushes. A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Does my life reflect my relationship with Christ?

Today, I reflect back on the well known saying: "If my life should be the only Gospel ever written, will anybody come to Christ by looking at the witness I am living?" Wow, such powerful words. Is there a chance that someone may commit their life to Christ, because of the way I am living? When I think of these words, it makes me feel ashamed, for I know that my own life is far from the perfect witness in what I claim to believe, and in whom I believe. So often it is simply too easy to lose your temper, get angry, depressed or even just to moan and groan about everything that makes us unhappy. But what does that reflect of our faith to others that do not have a relationship with Christ? It actually shows that we are failing in living a life that should glorify our Lord. I also makes the Lord unhappy, for at the one side we proclaim Him to be our Lord and Saviour, but on the other side, we use the same mouth that we praised Him with to hurt, curse, complain and gossip. We are then the "good trees" but we are showing the world that maybe our trees are not as healthy and as good as we would like to believe.

There is a very powerful verse in **James 1:26** "*Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself.*" Yes, you have read it correctly. If we can not control our tongue, we are showing the world that we are failing in having a real relationship with Christ. We are saying that there was no real life changing experience brought on by the realization of what Christ has done for us. We believe that we may continue living our lives, as if Jesus had never died for us on the cross, and rose again from the grave, to rule forever. We are then making a mockery of Christianity. If we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, it should bring about a change in our lives that should be visible to the entire world. Our lives should show that Christ is dwelling within us. But is that what our lives is showing. "*For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of*".

Thus, a person claiming to serve the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be going around swearing, cursing, always complaining and gossiping. That does not reflect your Christian witness. Yes, none of us is perfect, and none of us can claim that we can fully succeed in not failing in this part of our lives, but our witness should be that we are doing our best. Some people are simply not trying anymore. They will say, "Why should I, I will fail anyway?" This is no excuse. We are running a race, and we should put everything into it to reach our goal. We should be growing in our relationship with Christ, and as we move closer and closer to Christ, it should be more and more evident in our day to day living.

So, have you become tired and stopped running the race? Maybe it is now the time to go back to the Lord, and ask Him to forgive you for that, for He is still there waiting for you at the end line. You know what he has done for you, now let us persevere in living a life that will testify to His grace, Love and mercy that we have received in our lives.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

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