

GOOD FRUIT

Matthew 3:10 ... “And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Matthew 7:19-20 ... “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Today's two verses help us understand the importance of bearing good fruit, which is a reference to believers and what we produce, which should be other believers. It is interesting when you understand that the first verse (Matt 3:10) is a quote from John the Baptist before Jesus started his public ministry. As far as we know, John had not yet met Jesus and Jesus had not yet started to preach. The second verse is a quote from Jesus himself sometime later, and it says the same thing that John the Baptist said. That is a good indicator of the importance of this teaching, as it reveals that the Holy Spirit was giving this lesson through both John and Jesus.

If you are a farmer or gardener, you easily understand the concept of cutting down trees that do not produce fruit. A Mango tree has only one purpose: to produce Mangos. If the tree fails to produce Mangos, you are better off cutting it down for firewood and planting a healthier tree. If you plant rice and the rice does not grow and produce Palay, you are wasting your time and money on that crop. It is smarter to till it under and replant. The same is even true of animals. If your female Caribao is crippled and cannot pull a plow, and it is not able to be bred to produce calves, it is wiser to eat the Caribao than to continue feeding a useless animal.

One of the vivid images the Bible paints for us regarding heaven and hell, is that those who go to heaven are believers who share Christ with others and help them reach heaven themselves. They are the fruit of a believer's life. People who do not lead others to Christ, are disobedient to God and of little use. They could be cut-down and thrown into the fire of hell. It is not a pretty picture and something we do not wish to think about, but these are the words of Christ.

In the 21st verse of Matthew 7, we read: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.” If you are cruising through life as a believer in Christ, but not actively sharing him with others and introducing him to the lost, you are not fulfilling the will of the Father. You were created for that purpose and to ignore that, is a risky decision.

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