

Luke 6:43-45

"Two Treasures"

September 22, 2025

1. Intro

- a. So, I have a confession to make about our family...
 - i. We are a family who like "the idea" of doing certain things, but sometimes we're not all that great about implementing them and making them happen
 1. We LOVE the idea of camping!
 - a. Over the years, we've gathered together some relatively nice pieces of camping gear
 - i. But actually planning ahead, and making the time to actually GO camping, is something that we have yet to figure out how to do
 2. As a diligent dad and pastor, I LOVE the idea of doing family devotionals with my wife and kids
 - a. We've bought various devotionals and study guides over the years, and we might do well with them for a few weeks
 - i. But inevitably, the schedule gets messed up, life gets in the way, and the devotionals fall to the wayside
 3. The same can be said about gardening in years past
 - a. In almost all of the houses we have lived in, I have tried to start a garden of one kind or another
 - i. It usually goes well for the first few weeks
 1. And then, crazy enough, July always seems to hit
 - a. The temperature gets to 100 degrees or more
 - b. The mosquitos come out in force
 2. And we have typically found ourselves midsummer with garden beds completely overgrown by weeds, and the vegetables that we were trying to grow all dying from us not watering them enough
 - ii. This is usually when I gather all the family together, and say to them, "Let's go build some character by pulling some weeds!!"
 1. And the day ends with a bunch of dirty, sweaty kids, scratching their bug bites, and grumbling at their dad's great ideas
 - a. You'd think that I'd have learned a lesson or two after the first couple of years of this happening
 - i. But this pattern seems to keep on happening!
 4. But then, something changed a couple of years ago
 - a. Our middle daughter, Abby, started getting really interested in all things homesteading
 - i. She started learning how to make sourdough bread
 - ii. She started learning about canning and fermentation
 - iii. And to my joy, she started to get excited about gardening!
 1. I finally had a gardening buddy!!
 5. This ended up motivating me to start doing more research on my own
 - a. Over this past year or so, I've realized how much we have done WRONG in our gardening over the years
 - i. And so, slowly, I've been making changes to how we do our gardens

1. How we prepare the beds
 2. How we water the plants
 3. How we prune them properly
- b. And now, even though our garden is FAR from perfect, we've grown a ton of cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, different herbs, and even a crazy amount of watermelons
- i. The weeds have been pretty minimal
 - ii. Our methods are creating a good, healthy soil
 - iii. And we are finally getting to JOYFULLY reap the fruits of our labor
- ii. Well, if you've spent much time in the Word – especially the Gospels – you'll know that there is pretty simple and straightforward SPIRITUAL application to these things:
1. Follow the natural laws of God's creation, and vegetable gardens tend to be much more healthy and productive
 2. In the same way, when we follow the laws of God's Word, our lives tend to be much more fruitful as well
 - a. And even more importantly, we'll be able to better examine the condition of our hearts, and
 - b. Our lives will bring much more glory to the name of the Lord as a result of our fruitfulness
 - i. So let's look at our passage this morning...

2. Luke 6:43-45

- a. ⁴³For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵The 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.
- b. Now, it's important for us to remember the context of what Jesus was saying here
- i. We talked last week about how our culture has taken hold of the words of Jesus when he says, "Judge not," and they've used this as a way to tell the church...
 1. "You can't talk to me about sin, unless you want Jesus to judge YOU as well"
 - ii. We also saw how this attitude has begun to permeate into the church as well, and how we have lost all sense of corporate accountability to one another
 1. And as a result, we are no longer loving each other as THE BIBLE says we are to love one another
 - a. We must first get rid of the log in our own eye – deal with the sin in your own heart... repent, confess, lay it before the Lord
 - b. And THEN, we can help others to deal with their own sin
 - iii. The question then becomes, how do we recognize sinful behavior, or words, or even thoughts – in ourselves or in others?
 1. Jesus is clear... we look at the FRUIT
 - a. When the soil in our ground is not healthy, we tend to get bad fruit
 - i. Its typically undernourished and underdeveloped
 - ii. And therefore, it isn't any good for anything
- c. In the same way, when our hearts are not properly rooted IN CHRIST, we will not produce good fruit, either
- i. In fact, if you'll turn with me in your Bibles to John, chapter 15, we'll see that Jesus says we CANNOT bear good fruit apart from him!
- d. John 15:1-17
- i. ¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more

fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- ii. That is such an incredible passage, isn't it?
 1. How do we prove to the world that we are TRULY Jesus' disciples?
 - a. Verse 8 tells us that we prove it by BEARING MUCH FRUIT
 2. How do we bear much fruit?
 - a. Verse 5 tells us that we MUST abide in Christ
 3. But look at verses 16 and 17...
 - a. This is the great mystery of the Gospel and how our faith is to be lived out
 - i. The way that we bear fruit is that Christ must CHOOSE us and APPOINT us to bear fruit
 - ii. But at the same time, we are commanded to bear fruit and abide in him
 - b. We don't ever want to pit these things against one another
 - i. It's not that Christ is sovereign in our election, OR that man must choose to follow him
 - ii. The Bible is clear:
 1. Christ IS sovereign, AND we MUST obey
 - a. Many will argue, "Ah, those are two contradictory statements, therefore one must be true and one must be false"
 - b. But the answer is, "No, these are two BIBLE statements, and therefore BOTH must be true!"
 2. And we, as fallen and finite beings, simply choose to worship God as we exclaim, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen!"
- iii. So, how do we bear much fruit, proving ourselves to be Jesus' disciples, and bringing glory to our Father in heaven?
 1. By abiding in Christ

- a. How do we abide in Christ?
 - i. By DOING what he commands!
 - 1. Obedience is ESSENTIAL to abiding
 - 2. Apart from obedience to Christ, you cannot abide in him, and you cannot bear good fruit
 - iv. We see this very clearly in Matthew 7, as Jesus is bringing the Sermon on the Mount to a close (turn there in your Bibles)
 - 1. In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus gives us a similar teaching as our passage in Luke, as he says,
 - a. *¹⁵Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*
 - 2. So Jesus is again saying we can discern someone's heart by the fruits of their lives
 - a. But then he goes on to give us a pretty amazing description of what good fruit IS NOT, and what good fruit IS
 - i. Matthew 7:21-23
 - 1. *²¹Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*
 - 3. That is a stunning passage, isn't it??
 - a. Jesus says that there will be many who say to him, "Lord, Lord," who will NOT enter the Kingdom of Heaven
 - b. He says that there will be many who prophecy, IN HIS NAME, who will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven
 - c. There will be many who cast out demons, IN HIS NAME, who will not enter the Kingdom of heaven
 - d. There will be many who do MIGHT works, again in the name of Jesus, who will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven
 - 4. So who WILL enter the Kingdom, then?
 - a. Those who do the will of our Father who is in heaven
 - i. Those who OBEY the commands found in the Scriptures
 - 1. If we choose to obey, it does not matter ONE BIT how many signs and wonders we perform in the name of Jesus
 - a. On the day when we all stand before him for judgement, he will say to them, *"I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."*
- v. This is a crucial teaching for us in our day and age
 - 1. We have MANY leaders within the church today who are claiming AMAZING signs and wonders

- a. People being healed from diseases, demons being cast out, the Holy Spirit falling on people and causing them to run around the room shouting, or laying on the ground convulsing
 - i. And MANY people are looking at these signs and wonders and saying, “That MUST be God.”
 - 1. Yet Jesus would say to us, “Look at the LIVES of these teachers.”
 - a. Are they living lives of conformity to the Word?
 - b. Are they walking in obedience to the Scriptures?
 - c. Are they delighting more in the law of the Lord, or more in the signs and wonders they are performing?
 - b. Brothers and sisters, beware of false prophets
 - i. Jesus says that we will recognize them by the fruits of their lives, and by the fruits of what they are teaching
 - 2. If they are not obeying the Scriptures, they are not abiding in Christ
 - a. If they are not abiding in Christ, then their fruit is diseased and unhealthy
 - i. And we must flee from their teaching
 - 3. So, if we are to bear much fruit in this world, then we must abide in Christ
 - a. But the Apostle Paul shows us that there is MORE than just abiding in Christ
 - i. According to Galatians 5, we are ALSO to keep in step with the Spirit
- e. Throughout the book of Galatians, Paul is reminding us that we have been called to FREEDOM in Christ
 - i. We are no longer bound by the laws of the Old Covenant, but Christ has made us FREE under the New Covenant, purchased by his very own blood
 - 1. And that is REALLY good news for us, because we have all 39 books of the Old Testament that show us without a doubt...
 - a. We are COMPLETELY unable to live up to the demands of the law
 - i. And if we try to do so in our own strength, then we are doomed to failure and judgement
 - ii. So Paul writes the letter to the Galatians reminding them of their freedom in Christ
 - 1. But then he says to them, “BUT, this is NOT a freedom to live in whatever way you choose!
- f. Starting in Galatians 5, verse 16, Paul writes,
 - i. *¹⁶But I say, WALK BY THE SPIRIT, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*
 - 1. We see here that Paul first address the BAD fruit we are to avoid
 - a. There’s all the big stuff like sexual immorality, idolatry, sorcery, and drunkenness
 - i. Those are the easy ones for us to point our finger against, aren’t they?

- b. But Paul also calls out the more acceptable sins like enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, and division
 - i. ALL of these are BAD fruits
 - 1. And Paul says that when we see these things in our own hearts, or in the lives of others, then we ARE NOT walking in step with the Spirit
 - a. But are instead giving into the desires of our flesh
 - i. In both the big sins, AND the little sins
 - c. My friends, Jesus most certainly cares that we as a church fight for the rights of the unborn
 - d. He most certainly cares that we stand strong in support of the biblical marriage of one man to one woman
 - e. He absolutely wants us to be unwavering when it comes to his Father's design for gender who we were created to be
 - i. But Jesus ALSO cares about every single word that comes out of our mouths
2. In Matthew 12:33-37, he says again,
 - a. *³³Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*
 - i. That is a sobering word for us today, isn't it?
 - 1. We will have to give an account for EVERY careless word we speak??
 - 2. And these words of the power to possibly condemn us before God?
 - a. How is that possible?
 - ii. Well, Jesus says, if evil things are coming out of your mouth, that is a sign that there is evil IN YOUR HEART
 - 1. And if there is evil in your heart, then you are not walking in step with the Spirit, but you are instead gratifying the desires of your flesh
 - a. And the desires of the flesh are opposed to the desires of the Spirit
 - i. A tree is known by its fruit
 - ii. And bad trees bearing bad fruit will not inherit the Kingdom of God
- ii. So what then is the GOOD fruit that we are to look for, in our own hearts and in the lives of others?
 - 1. Love... Joy... Peace... Patience... Kindness... Goodness... Faithfulness... Gentleness... Self-control
 - a. I love how Paul says, "Against all of THESE things, there is no law whatsoever!"
 - i. You are FREE to be as loving as you possibly can!
 - ii. You are FREE to be as joyful as your heart desires!

- iii. You are FREE to be peaceful in the midst of chaos
 - iv. You are FREE to be patient in the midst of trials
 - v. You are FREE to be kind in the face of your enemies
 - vi. You are FREE to do good to those who hate you
 - vii. You are FREE to be faithful to God, when all others are falling away
 - viii. You are FREE to be gentle as you stand against sin
 - ix. You are absolutely FREE to exercise self-control in ALL things
 - 1. For your self has been crucified with Christ
 - 2. It is no longer you who live, but Christ who lives in you
 - 3. And the life you now live in the flesh you live by faith in the Son of God, who loved you and gave himself for you
 - 2. You are FREE to do all of these things, Christian, for as you walk in step with the Spirit, you will bear much fruit
 - a. And in so doing, you will prove to the world that you are Christ's disciples
 - b. And you will bring GLORY to the name of your Father in heaven!
 - i. So walk in step with the Spirit
 - ii. Abide in Christ
 - iii. And, as Jesus reminds us back in Luke 6:45, make sure your treasure is in the right place as well
 - 1. For out of the good treasure of your heart, you WILL produce good!
 - 3. This verse points us back to the Sermon on the Mount again – this time in Matthew 6:19-24
- g. In this passage, Jesus says,
- i. *¹⁹Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*
 - 1. Here in the middle of this passage is a crucial principle for us to remember
 - a. In verse 22, Jesus says that “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness”
 - i. So, Christian, what is your eye focused on?
 - 1. Is it focused on the treasures of this world?
 - a. Is it focused on the treasures and pleasures of the American Dream?
 - b. Is it focused on the safety and the ease and the comforts that we are told we must pursue at any cost?
 - c. Is it focused on the idolatrous worship of self, in our culture of “Just do whatever makes you happy?”
 - b. Jesus says that, if that is where our treasure lies, then our eye is bad, and our body will be full of darkness
 - i. For we CANNOT serve two masters
 - ii. But Paul reminds us of a BETTER way

1. In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul reminds us that we do not walk by the sight that this world walks by, chasing after all the same things they chase after
 - a. No, friends, we are called to walk BY FAITH in the treasures that are to come
2. Paul writes in verses 1-10,
 - a. *¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

iii. So, how do we bear good out of the good treasure that is within our hearts?

1. We remind ourselves that our treasure is NOT in this world – our treasure awaits us in heaven
 - a. We don't walk by our sight, as we covet and pine after the things of this world
 - b. We walk by faith, knowing that the riches of heaven FAR EXCEED anything we could ever think or imagine!

3. So what are these treasures?

- a. Turn to Ephesians 1:3-14, and we'll close by looking at the unbelievable wealth of treasures we have been given in Christ...
 - i. *³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

b. So what are our treasures?

- i. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
 1. We could spend days upon days unpacking that one, couldn't we
 - a. No more sin... no more weeping... no more mourning... no more grief or sadness or despair

- b. Just unbroken and unhindered fellowship with God our Father, in the presence of Jesus Christ and the glory of the Holy Spirit
 - i. EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly places IS OURS
 - ii. Verse 4 tells us that we have been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world
 - 1. That we should be holy and blameless before Him
 - a. That is a mindblowing thought, isn't it?
 - iii. Verse 5 tells us that, because of God's great love, He predestined us for adoption as His sons and daughters through Christ
 - 1. This was all according to the purpose of HIS will
 - 2. And to the praise of HIS glorious grace
 - iv. Verse 7 tells us that we have been given redemption through Christ's blood
 - 1. We have been redeemed off of the slave blocks of our own sin, and our freedom has been purchased by Christ's own blood
 - v. Our trespasses have been forgiven
 - 1. Not because we deserved it – for we were still his enemies
 - 2. But instead, this was according to the riches of His grace that He has LAVISHED upon us
 - vi. Verse 9 tells us that we now know the mystery of His will
 - 1. That through Christ we have been made one with the people of God
 - vii. Verse 10 tells us that we have been united to our Father through Christ
 - viii. Verse 11 affirms that we have obtained this inheritance
 - ix. And if there is any doubt, verses 13 and 14 remind us that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit
 - 1. And this is the guarantee of our inheritance
 - a. ALL OF THESE things await us in heaven, and we walk BY FAITH that what God says is TRUE!
 - i. But flip over to chapter 2... Paul keeps going!
- c. Ephesians 2:1-10
 - i. *¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
 - 1. What else does our good treasure contain?
 - a. Verse 4 says that, because of God's rich mercy and great love, even when we were children of wrath – dead in our trespasses and sins – He made us ALIVE in Christ
 - b. He saved us by His grace, SO THAT He might show us the immeasurable riches of His grace
 - i. And ALL of this was a gift of God, not a result of ANY of works
 - c. God created us IN CHRIST JESUS, for GOOD WORKS, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them!

- i. And this brings us full circle, doesn't it?
- 2. God created us, He predestined us, He chose us, all so we might bear good fruit, and prove that we are His Son's disciples
 - a. As we abide in Christ...
 - b. As we walk in step with the Spirit...
 - c. As we walk BY FAITH in all the good treasures our Father has freely given to us...
 - i. As we walk IN OBEDIENCE to all that Christ has commanded...
 - 1. The garden of our hearts will begin to overflow with GOOD fruit
 - 2. We will prove that we are indeed Christ's disciples
 - 3. And the name of our Father, who has lavishly given to us an immeasurable wealth of riches, will be glorified throughout all of His creation
 - ii. My friends, examine the fruit that comes out of your garden, for no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its fruit
 - 1. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil
 - a. For out of the abundance of the heart, our mouths speak
 - i. So may our prayer be the same as David's in Psalm 19:14,
 - 1. *Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer!*