

Series: Jesus Among Us

Text: Luke 6:43–45 ESV

Speaker: Pastor Mike Sciara

Church: Integrity Church, Yaphank NY

Date: June 28, 2026

SERMON BIG IDEA: *God exposes the root so that He can produce genuine fruit that lasts*

SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

1a. Welcome

Church, this morning we are continuing in Luke 6, in what is often called Jesus' Sermon on the Plain.

Jesus is teaching His disciples what life in His kingdom looks like. He is not just giving us religious ideas. He is forming a kingdom people.

And in the verses right before our text, Jesus has been dealing with the danger of judging others wrongly.

He talks about the unequal measures we use.

The way we can be quick to see the speck in our brother's eye while ignoring the plank in our own.

The way we can become incredibly precise when examining someone else's sin, someone else's weakness, someone else's failure, but suddenly become very generous and vague when it comes to our own.

And what Jesus is doing there is not saying, "Never discern. Never evaluate. Never judge anything." That is not His point.

His point is that we often judge from a place of blindness.

We judge others without first allowing God to deal with us.

We overemphasize the sins, faults, and issues of others while minimizing our own. We hold others to standards we do not apply equally to ourselves. We can become experts at inspecting someone else's fruit while refusing to look honestly at what is growing in our own lives.

But here is the grace in Jesus' words: our blindness is not incurable.

Jesus says that when the plank is removed, we can see clearly. That means Jesus is not against clarity. He is not against discernment. He is not against righteous judgment. He is teaching us how to see rightly.

And that leads us into Luke 6:43–45.

1b. Opening Illustration — My Potted Palms

► **SLIDE CUE: Picture of HEALTHY Potted Palm**

► **SLIDE CUE: Picture of UNHEALTHY Potted Palm**

I bought these potted palms for my deck. And my wife warned me — very lovingly, of course — that I have a habit of buying plants and then quietly watching them die.

And I thought, "Not this time. I am going to prove her wrong."

So I watered these plants regularly. Especially because she warned me. I was determined. "I'll show her. These plants are going to thrive."

But over the past several weeks, the leaves started turning brown. And I am looking at them thinking, “Why is this happening? I’m watering them. I’m doing the thing I’m supposed to do.”

Then I noticed the soil had eroded. It was getting low in the pot. So I added more soil. I kept watering.

Then the other night, Heather noticed that the roots were exposed at the top of the soil.

And I told her, “I don’t want to look at it. It’s getting me depressed.”

And she quickly retracted her statement because, after all, it was Father’s Day, and there should be no criticism on Father’s Day. That should be in Leviticus somewhere. I’m not saying it is, but it feels like it should be.

But here is the point.

The roots were being revealed. And I did not want to look at them. I wanted to ignore them. I wanted to cover them up.

No part of me was interested in discovering why they got that way. No part of me consulted a horticultural expert. No part of me said, “Maybe the exposed roots are telling me something about the health of the plant.”

I just wanted the problem to go away.

1c. Human Condition:

And isn’t that what we do spiritually?

God begins to reveal something.

A pattern. A reaction. A critical spirit. A lack of patience. A lack of compassion. A lack of prayer. A lack of repentance. A habit of judging others more harshly than we judge ourselves. A mouth that keeps producing words that wound. A heart that keeps withholding mercy.

And instead of bringing it into the light, we want to cover it up. We want to add a little more soil. We want to keep watering the same way and hope it gets better. We want to look away because seeing the root is depressing.

But God is not revealing the root to destroy us. He is revealing the root to heal us. He is revealing the root because He loves us too much to let bad fruit persist in His people.

1d. Biblical Response / Setup:

John 15 reminds us that the Father is the vinedresser. Jesus is the true vine. And every branch that bears fruit, He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Pruning is not punishment. Pruning is love. Pruning is painful, but it is purposeful.

God cuts away what is diseased, what is dead, what is unfruitful — not because He is against us, but because He is committed to producing fruit in us.

► *SLIDE CUE: Sermon Title*

The title of my message today is: When the Fruit Reveals the Root

Transition: As we walk through this passage, we will discover 3 Essential Truths — 3 movements that call us to respond as devoted followers of Jesus. Turn with me in your Bibles to Luke, Chapter 6.

SECTION 2 — MAIN TEXT & CONTEXT

2a. Scripture Reading

Luke 6:43–45 ESV

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The 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."

This is God's Word for us today.

2b. Context — The Sermon on the Plain

This text sits at the climax of a larger section in Luke 6. Jesus has been teaching His disciples about kingdom living — loving enemies, doing good, lending without expecting return. And in the verses just before ours, He has been dealing with the danger of blind judgment — seeing the speck in a brother's eye while ignoring the plank in your own.

The fruit-and-root teaching here is not a random agricultural illustration. It is the natural conclusion to Jesus' warning about self-deception. The question He is pressing on His disciples — and on us — is this: *What is actually being produced in your life, and what does it reveal about what is happening in your heart?*

► *SLIDE CUE: 3 Essential Truths*

As we walk through this passage, here are our 3 Essential Truths:

- **The fruit** will always match the root (v. 43–44)
- **The mouth** will reveal the condition of the heart (v. 45)
- **God exposes** the root to produce genuine fruit that lasts

Essential Truth 1 — The Fruit Will Always Match the Root (v. 43–44)

► *SLIDE CUE:*

Luke 6:43–44 ESV

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush."

Exposition:

This is not complicated imagery. Jesus is using something incredibly ordinary, something His hearers would immediately understand. A tree produces according to its nature.

You know what kind of tree it is by what it produces. Fruit reveals nature. Fruit reveals health.

► *SLIDE CUE: Picture of Bowl of Good Fruit*

A good tree produces good fruit.

► *SLIDE CUE: Picture of Bowl of Bad Fruit*

A bad tree produces bad fruit.

Fruit reveals what is going on below the surface.

The fruit will always match the root.

In other words, the visible fruit reveals the hidden condition of the tree.

Illustration:

In Scripture, figs and grapes often carry rich imagery. Figs can represent peace, blessing, stability, and flourishing. Grapes can symbolize joy, abundance, salvation, and fruitfulness. These are sweet, nourishing, life-giving fruits.

But Jesus contrasts those fruits with thornbushes and briars. Thorns and briars are not images of blessing. They are images of wilderness, hardship, curse, pain, and resistance. They protect. They wound. They are difficult to approach. They do not nourish. They do not bless. They do not refresh.

So Jesus says, do not be confused. Figs do not come from thorns. Grapes do not come from briars. Good fruit does not come from a bad root. And bad fruit does not come from a good root.

Because Jesus is not ultimately giving a lesson in agriculture. He is giving a lesson in spiritual reality. He is saying that what is produced in our lives reveals what is happening in our hearts.

Application:

Our words, our attitudes, our patterns, our reactions, our relationships, our responses under pressure, our generosity, our forgiveness, our criticism, our anger, our patience, our humility, our repentance — these are not random things. They are fruit. And fruit always points to a root.

This is why we have to be careful not to treat the Christian life as mere behavior modification.

Because we can try to staple good fruit onto a bad tree.

We can try to look patient while bitterness is still growing underneath. We can try to sound humble while pride is still ruling underneath. We can try to act forgiving while resentment is still being treasured underneath. We can try to appear spiritually alive while there is very little dependence on Christ underneath.

But Jesus is telling us that eventually, the fruit will reveal the root. Eventually, what is in us comes out of us. Eventually, the tree becomes known by its fruit.

Now, I was thinking about how much our world depends on fruit inspection. There are whole systems of inspection that exist to make sure fruit is suitable before it goes to market. Food inspectors, agricultural inspectors, quality control workers — their job is to assess the fruit.

Nobody wants to buy fruit that looks beautiful on the outside but is rotten on the inside. Nobody wants to bite into something that looked healthy but was diseased. Nobody wants fruit that only had the appearance of life.

But here is the question for us: How many of us are actually taking the time to inspect the fruit in our own lives? Not someone else's fruit. Our fruit.

Because if we are honest, many of us are professional fruit inspectors when it comes to everyone else. We inspect their tone. We inspect their choices. We inspect their motives. We inspect their parenting. We inspect their marriage. We inspect their theology. We inspect their social media posts. We inspect their facial expressions. We inspect what they said, what they did not say, how quickly they responded, how they responded, and why we think they responded that way.

We inspect everybody else's orchard.

But Jesus, in love, turns the inspection back on us. He says, before you become preoccupied with the fruit in someone else's life, let Me show you what is being produced in yours. And church, that is grace.

It may not feel like grace at first. It may feel exposing. It may feel uncomfortable. It may even feel painful. But when God exposes the fruit, He is doing something loving. He is revealing the root. Because He is not content to leave us with diseased roots and decorative leaves.

This is where the fig imagery is so powerful. In Mark's Gospel, you may remember, Jesus curses the fig tree because it had the appearance of fruitfulness, but no fruit. It had leaves, but no figs. It looked alive. It looked promising. But when Jesus approached it, there was no fruit.

And that is a sobering picture. Because the issue was not merely that it had bad fruit. It had no fruit.

And for some of us, that may be the challenge this morning. It is easy to think, “Well, I am not producing bad fruit. I am not doing anything terrible. I am not hostile to God. I am not openly rebellious. I am not as bad as that person.”

But Jesus does not only warn against bad fruit. He also warns against fruitlessness. No fruit is not spiritually neutral.

► *SLIDE CUE: Adam Clarke Quote*

As Adam Clarke put it:

“Not to have good fruit is to have evil: there can be no innocent sterility in the invisible tree of the heart. He that brings forth no fruit, and he that brings forth bad fruit, are both only fit for the fire.”

► *SLIDE CUE: Spurgeon Quote*

Spurgeon said something similar:

“It is not merely the wicked, the bearer of poison berries, that will be cut down; but the neutral, the man who bears no fruit of positive virtue must also be cast into the fire.”

In other words, spiritual neutrality is not safety. Fruitlessness is not innocence.

A lack of repentance, a lack of love, a lack of mercy, a lack of obedience, a lack of humility, a lack of dependence on Christ — those things reveal something. This is the danger of lukewarmness.

In Revelation, Jesus speaks to a church that is neither hot nor cold. They are comfortable. They are self-assured. They think they are fine. But Jesus sees what is really there.

And that is what He does in love. He sees what is really there. He sees past the leaves. He sees past the appearance. He sees past the religious language. He sees past the church attendance. He sees past the polite smile. He sees past the outward form. And He asks, “Where is the fruit?”

Application

We can go to church faithfully, read our Bibles consistently, pray fluently, serve visibly — and still be spiritually hollow. God does not simply inspect our activity. He inspects our root. He looks for the fruit that authentic, living faith always produces: love, humility, repentance, compassion, faithfulness.

The frightening truth is not that the tree was struck down — it’s that the tree didn’t even know something was wrong. It kept standing there, full of leaves, unaware of its own emptiness. Is it possible to lose touch with the state of your own soul?

Reflection:

- Where have you been producing “leaves” — outward religious activity — without the underlying fruit of genuine relationship with God?
- If Jesus inspected the branches of your faith today, what would He find?

► **Remember, the fruit will always match the root.**

Transition: The fruit will always match the root. And what we produce always flows from something deeper — the condition of the heart.

► **Essential Truth 2 — The Mouth Will Reveal the Condition of the Heart (v. 45)**

Luke 6:43–44 ESV

“The 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.”

Exposition

Now Jesus moves from the tree to the person.

The tree and the fruit are pointing to the heart and the mouth. The heart is the root. The mouth reveals the fruit. What fills the heart eventually comes out in our words.

Now, we need to understand that when Scripture talks about the heart, it is not just talking about emotions. Biblically, the heart is the control center of the person. It is the seat of our desires, our loves, our thoughts, our motives, our will, our worship. Jesus teaches that the heart is where our treasure is.

► *SLIDE CUE:*

Matthew 6:21 ESV

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

So when Jesus says, "Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks," He is saying our words reveal what we treasure, what we believe, what we fear, what we love, what we worship, what we are holding onto.

Our words are not accidental leaks. They are windows. They show us what is stored within.

This is why our words matter so much:

► *SLIDE CUE:*

Proverbs 18:21 ESV

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."

Our words can bless or wound. They can heal or cut. They can build up or tear down. They can speak truth in love, or they can use truth as a weapon. They can reveal humility, or they can expose pride. They can reveal trust, or they can expose fear. They can reveal patience, or they can expose anger. They can reveal mercy, or they can expose judgment.

And Jesus says that what comes out of the mouth is not disconnected from what is happening in the heart. He says it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out. Why? Because what comes out reveals what is within.

He says the same thing when confronting the Pharisees: clean the inside of the cup first, and then the outside will be clean also. Because the outside always flows from the inside. The fruit always reveals the root. The mouth always reveals the heart.

Now, we all know what this is like.

We say something harsh and then say, "I don't know where that came from." Well, Jesus says, "I do." It came from the heart.

We snap at someone and say, "That is not really me." But Jesus lovingly presses deeper and says, "It may not be all of you, but it came from somewhere in you."

We gossip and then call it concern. We criticize and then call it discernment. We vent and then call it honesty. We avoid and then call it peacekeeping. We explode and then blame the pressure.

But pressure does not create what is in the heart. Pressure reveals what is in the heart. If I squeeze an orange, orange juice comes out because orange juice was inside. If I squeeze a lemon, lemon juice comes out because lemon juice was inside.

When life squeezes us, what comes out?

When we are tired, what comes out? When we are criticized, what comes out? When we do not get our way, what comes out? When someone hurts us, what comes out? When our spouse frustrates us, what comes out? When our children do not listen, what comes out? When someone at church disappoints us, what comes out? When we feel overlooked, what comes out? When we are under pressure, what comes out?

Jesus says, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."

Application

Garbage in always means garbage out. But the reverse is also true. When the heart is being filled with Christ, shaped by Christ, surrendered to Christ, dependent on Christ, the fruit begins to change.

That does not mean we become perfect. It does not mean we never struggle. It does not mean we never need correction. It means the Spirit begins producing in us what we could never manufacture on our own.

Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control.

That is the fruit of the Spirit. Not the fruit of trying harder. Not the fruit of religious image management. Not the fruit of personality. Not the fruit of self-discipline alone. The fruit of the Spirit.

So here is the question Jesus puts before us: What is your heart full of?

Not what do you want people to think your heart is full of. Not what do you wish your heart were full of. Not what do you know the right theological answer should be. What is your heart *actually* full of?

Because the mouth will reveal the condition of the heart.

And sometimes, we need to listen not only to what we say, but also to what we do not say.

Sometimes silence reveals the heart too. The apology we refuse to give. The encouragement we withhold. The gratitude we never express. The prayer we avoid. The confession we delay. The truth we are too afraid to speak. The reconciliation we keep postponing.

The words we speak and the words we withhold can both become skeleton keys. They unlock what is happening beneath the surface.

And Jesus calls us to use this level of discernment not only with each other, but first as we look in the mirror.

Lord, what are my words revealing? Lord, what does my tone reveal? Lord, what does my criticism reveal? Lord, what does my silence reveal? Lord, what does my defensiveness reveal? Lord, what does my impatience reveal? Lord, what does my lack of joy reveal? Lord, what does my lack of repentance reveal?

What is my heart full of?

Reflection

- What have your words been revealing about the condition of your heart lately?
- Where have you been treating the symptoms (behavior) rather than the root (the heart)?

► The Mouth Will Reveal the Condition of the Heart (v. 45)

Transition: The fruit will always match the root. The mouth will reveal the condition of the heart. And so when God exposes what is underneath, how do we respond? That leads us to our final movement:

► **Essential Truth 3 — God Exposes the Root to Produce Genuine Fruit That Lasts**

So how do we bear genuine fruit that lasts? Jesus has shown us the problem — bad roots produce bad fruit, and the mouth reveals the condition of the heart. Now He is pointing us toward the solution.

Psalms 1:1-3 ESV gives us a positive picture.

Psalms 1:1-3 ESV

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

That is the picture of a nourished life. A rooted life. A stable life. A fruitful life. Not because the tree is impressive in itself, but because of *where it is planted*.

And in John 15:4 ESV, Jesus makes it even clearer:

John 15:4 ESV

“Abide 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.”

The call is not to try harder. The call is to abide. The call is not self-improvement. The call is surrender. Stop trying to produce spiritual fruit in the strength of the flesh. Stop trying to staple figs onto thornbushes. Stop trying to manufacture grapes from briars. Stop pretending the root does not matter.

And come honestly before the Lord and say: “Search me, O God. Reveal what is in me. Show me the fruit. Show me the root. And by Your Spirit, produce in me what I cannot produce in myself.”

Application:

► **SLIDE CUE: The Three Postures — How We Respond When God Exposes the Root**

Now, when God reveals the root in our lives, I think there are three possible postures we can take.

► **SLIDE CUE: The first posture: We can look outward.**

This is what we often do. God reveals bad fruit in us, and instead of dealing with it, we look outward. We compare ourselves to others. “Well, I’m not as bad as they are.” “At least I don’t do what they do.” “If you knew what they said to me, you would understand why I responded that way.” “If they changed, I would not have to act this way.”

We ignore the fruit. We excuse it. We minimize it. We reduce the urgency by pointing to someone else's orchard. But that is the very thing Jesus has been confronting. That is speck-and-plank living. And that posture will keep us from repentance.

► **SLIDE CUE: The second posture: We can look inward.**

Now, this may sound better than looking outward, but it can be just as dangerous. God reveals bad fruit, and we turn inward in shame and despair. "What is wrong with me?" "Why can't I just get it together?" "I am such a failure." "I will never change." "God must be so disappointed in me."

And we become self-focused. Not repentant — self-focused. Not surrendered — self-condemning. Not free — ashamed.

But shame is not the same thing as repentance.

Shame turns us in on ourselves. Repentance turns us toward God. Shame says, "Hide." Repentance says, "Come into the light." Shame says, "You are disqualified." Repentance says, "Run to the One who restores." Shame says, "Cover the roots." Repentance says, "Lord, here they are. Heal what is underneath."

► **SLIDE CUE: The third posture: We can look upward.**

When confronted with our own rotten fruit, the most biblical response is to look upward. *To agree with God.* This is repentance. When God reveals bad fruit, we agree with Him that it is bad. We do not rename it. We do not excuse it. We do not compare it. We do not minimize it.

We say, "Lord, You are right. That was sinful. That was proud. That was harsh. That was selfish. That was unbelief. That was fear. That was bitterness. That was hypocrisy. That was me trying to produce fruit apart from You."

But we do not stop there. Because biblical repentance is not merely agreeing that the fruit is bad. It is turning to the One who can change the root.

Gospel Invitation

And this is where the gospel is so beautiful. Because God does not reveal the root to shame us, disqualify us, or separate us from Him. He reveals the root so that we will run to Him. He reveals the root so that we will stop trusting in ourselves. He reveals the root so that we will stop pretending. He reveals the root so that we will come to Christ, the source and sustainer of genuine transformation.

And sometimes, in His mercy, God uses even the thorns. The hardships. The wilderness. The painful exposure. The uncomfortable conviction. The consequences of our bad fruit. The moments when we see things in ourselves that we do not want to see. Sometimes God uses the thorns to redirect us toward the fruit of blessing — figs and grapes, joy and peace, salvation and spiritual prosperity.

And we see this most clearly in Jesus.

Jesus, the King of Kings, was mocked. Roman soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on His head. Think about that. The symbol of curse. The symbol of pain. The symbol of wilderness. The symbol of human hardship. Pressed into the brow of the Son of God.

And what looked like shame became the pathway to glory. What looked like defeat became the victory over sin, death, shame, and Hades. What the enemy meant for harm, God intended for good. Through the thorns of the cross, Jesus produced the fruit of salvation. Through His suffering, He brought blessing. Through His death, He brought life. Through His wounds, we are healed.

So when God reveals the roots of our hearts, we do not have to run away. We do not have to hide. We do not have to pretend. We do not have to collapse into shame.

We can run to Jesus.

Because He already wore the crown of thorns. He already bore our sin. He already carried our shame. He already defeated death. He already made a way for sinners, hypocrites, the fruitless, the weary, the exposed, the ashamed, and the repentant to come home.

And now, by His Spirit, He produces in us what we could never produce on our own. Galatians 5 calls it the fruit of the Spirit. Not the fruit of Mike. Not the fruit of self-improvement. Not the fruit of religious performance. Not the fruit of white-knuckled obedience.

The fruit of the Spirit.

► **SLIDE CUE:**

Galatians 5:22 ESV

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control.

That fruit is produced by the Spirit as we surrender to Him, abide in Christ, and agree with God through repentance. That is genuine fruit that lasts.

A Redemptive Community

And this brings us back to where Jesus started. Because yes, God will give us discernment to see fruit in others. There are times when God reveals faulty roots in someone else by allowing us to see bad fruit in their life.

But He does not give us that discernment so we can condemn them. He gives us discernment so we can join Him in His redemptive work. If Jesus intercedes for us when He sees the bad roots in our lives, then we can intercede for others when we see bad fruit in theirs.

We can pray. We can approach with humility. We can restore gently. We can speak truth in love. We can refuse condemnation while still refusing to call bad fruit good.

We can ask the Holy Spirit to produce in them what they cannot produce in themselves.

That is what a redemptive church does.

A judgmental church inspects everyone else's fruit and condemns. A passive church ignores bad fruit and calls it love. But a Spirit-dependent church begins with self-examination, moves toward repentance, and then approaches others with humility, truth, grace, and hope.

Integrity—do you want to become that kind of church? I pray you will.

Reflection:

- Where is God inviting you today — not into shame, but into repentance?
- Not into hiding, but into healing?
- Not into self-effort, but into Spirit-dependence?

► **SLIDE CUE: Central Truth**

God exposes the root so that He can produce genuine fruit that lasts

SECTION 3 — LANDING THE PLANE

As we head towards closing this morning, let these 3 Essential Truths remind us:

► **SLIDE CUE: Restate 3 Essential Truths:**

1. **The fruit will always match the root (v. 43–44)**
2. **The mouth will reveal the condition of the heart (v. 45)**
3. **God exposes the root to produce genuine fruit that lasts**

3a. Call to Action

This passage urges each of us to respond — specifically, in at least 3 ways, but by no means only these 3:

- Reflect on the true state of your heart, confessing any areas of inauthenticity.
- Return to a genuine relationship with God through Jesus, repenting of self-reliance and religious performance.
- Rely on the indwelling Spirit of God to produce genuine fruit in you as you walk daily with Him.

3b. Closing Questions

So, Integrity Church, let us be that kind of church.

- Let us be a church that inspects the fruit in our own lives first. Let us be a people who say, “Lord, before I obsess over the speck in my brother’s eye, remove the plank from mine.”
- Let us be a people who agree with God. Let us be a people who surrender. Let us be a people who allow Him to do the transforming work in us that we could never do ourselves.
- Let us be a church that, when God reveals unhealthy roots in others, we do not rush to condemn. We lovingly approach them in humility and grace. We become catalysts for redemption.
- Let us be a church that lives self-reflective lives. Not self-obsessed lives. Not shame-filled lives. Self-reflective, Spirit-dependent lives.

So that when He shows us bad fruit, we do not excuse it. We do not hide it. We do not blame others for it. We bring it to Him. And we say: *“Lord, produce in me what I cannot produce in myself.”*

Because when God exposes the root, He lovingly produces genuine fruit that will last, bringing Him glory in this life and in the life to come.

Church, the invitation of Jesus is not, “Try harder to look fruitful.” The invitation of Jesus is, “Come to Me. Abide in Me. Let My Spirit produce in you what you could never produce on your own.”

► **SLIDE CUE: The fruit will always reveal the root. (Unhealthy Palm)**

► **SLIDE CUE: When God exposes the root, He does so to produce genuine fruit that lasts. (Healthy Palm)**

3d. Closing Prayer