



Milk Series

Love of YAH

The Well Dressed Saint/Christian

The bible provides believers with the guidelines and commandments as to how they should dress and appear both spiritually and naturally. Yahshuah(Jesus) calls us the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt 5:13-16). We represent Christ and all that we do will reflect on him (Col 3:17).

Spiritual Adornment:

What the Holy Spirit provides each saint. (Gal 5:22-23,25; Rom 8:14)

What we must first have: (Hebrews 11:6)

What should we add to our faith? (2 Peter 1:5-7 and James 2:26)

What does the addition of these things to our faith do for us? (2 Peter 1:8)

How to we become strong in the Lord? (Eph 6:10-19)

Who do we wrestle against? (Eph 6:11-12)

What things do we specifically need to be strong in the Lord? (Eph 6:14)

Eph 6:14 loins girded with Truth

Eph 6:14 breast plate of Righteousness

Eph 6:15 the Gospel of peace on your feet

Eph 6:16 Shield of Faith

Eph 6-17 Helmet of Salvation

Eph 6:17 the Sword of the Spirit (the word of God)

Eph 6-18 All prayer and supplication praying always in the Spirit

Natural Adornment

How does Jesus say we distinguish a good tree or saint from a bad one? (Mat 7:17-21)

Certainly! Below is a lesson on Matthew 7:17, focusing on its literal meaning and implications for believers.

Lesson on Matthew 7:17

Introduction

Matthew 7:17 is a verse from the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches about the characteristics of true discipleship. In this particular section, He uses the analogy of trees and their fruit to illustrate the relationship between a person's inner nature and their outward actions.

Scripture (KJV)

Matthew 7:17:

17. Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Key Points and Explanation

1. Context of the Passage:

- This verse is part of a larger teaching where Jesus warns against false prophets (Matthew 7:15-20). He emphasizes the importance of discerning true followers of God from those who merely appear righteous.

- The metaphor of trees and their fruit serves as a clear and relatable illustration for the audience, emphasizing that true character and intentions will ultimately manifest in one's actions.

2. The Good Tree and Good Fruit:

- Good Tree Defined: A "good tree" symbolizes a person whose heart and mind are aligned with God's will. This person is genuine in their faith and sincere in their relationship with God.

- Good Fruit Explained: The "good fruit" represents the positive actions and attitudes that naturally flow from a righteous heart. These include love, kindness, honesty, generosity, and other virtues consistent with God's commandments.

- Natural Outcome: Just as a healthy tree naturally produces good fruit, a person who is spiritually healthy will naturally exhibit good behavior and make righteous choices.

3. The Corrupt Tree and Evil Fruit:

- Corrupt Tree Defined: A "corrupt tree" symbolizes a person whose heart is not aligned with God. This person may outwardly appear righteous but is inwardly driven by selfishness, hypocrisy, or sin.

- Evil Fruit Explained: The "evil fruit" represents harmful actions and attitudes, such as deceit, greed, hatred, and other vices. These are the natural results of a corrupted heart.

- Inevitable Outcome: Just as a diseased tree produces bad fruit, a person who is spiritually corrupt will eventually demonstrate negative behavior and make unrighteous choices.

4. Implications for Believers:

- Self-Examination: Believers are encouraged to examine their own lives, assessing whether their actions reflect the character of a good tree or a corrupt tree.

- Discernment: Jesus' teaching calls for discernment, urging believers to look beyond appearances and evaluate the true nature of those who claim to follow Him. This is especially important in identifying false prophets or teachers.

- Transformation: The passage emphasizes the necessity of inner transformation. A genuine relationship with God should result in a changed heart, leading to the production of good fruit.

Application

- Personal Reflection: Regularly evaluate your actions and attitudes. Are they consistent with the teachings of Jesus? Strive to cultivate a heart that aligns with God's will.

- Growth in Virtue: Actively seek to grow in virtues such as love, patience, kindness, and humility. These qualities are evidence of good fruit in your life.
- Community Involvement: Engage with your faith community to support and encourage one another in spiritual growth, holding each other accountable in love.
- Cautious Discernment: Be mindful of those who may present themselves as leaders or teachers. Evaluate their lives and teachings by the fruit they produce.

Conclusion

Matthew 7:17 challenges believers to consider the true nature of their faith and the authenticity of their actions. By understanding and applying the principles of this teaching, believers can ensure that their lives reflect the righteousness and goodness that come from a genuine relationship with God. This passage serves as a reminder of the importance of inner transformation and the visible evidence of faith through good works.

Certainly! In the context of Matthew 7:17, "corrupt fruit" refers to the negative actions, attitudes, and behaviors that result from a heart not aligned with God's will. These manifestations of a corrupt heart can be understood as the outward expressions of inner sinfulness and spiritual decay. Here are some examples of corrupt fruit:

Examples of Corrupt Fruit

1. Deceit and Dishonesty:

- Lying: Intentionally misleading others, whether through false statements, withholding the truth, or manipulating information for personal gain.
- Fraud: Engaging in deceitful practices, such as cheating in business dealings, falsifying documents, or scamming others.

2. Hatred and Bitterness:

- Anger: Harboring and expressing intense, uncontrolled anger toward others, leading to conflict and division.

- Resentment: Holding grudges and refusing to forgive, which can result in a cycle of bitterness and animosity.

3. Greed and Materialism:

- Covetousness: An intense desire for more possessions or wealth, often at the expense of others, leading to unethical behavior.

- Exploitation: Taking advantage of others for personal gain, such as exploiting workers or manipulating vulnerable individuals for profit.

4. Pride and Self-Centeredness:

- Arrogance: Having an inflated sense of self-importance, disregarding the needs and feelings of others, and looking down on those deemed inferior.

- Narcissism: Being excessively focused on oneself, prioritizing personal desires over the well-being of others.

5. Immorality and Impurity:

- Sexual Immorality: Engaging in behaviors contrary to God's design for sexual purity, such as adultery, fornication, or pornography.

- Impure Thoughts: Entertaining thoughts and fantasies that are morally corrupt, leading to sinful actions.

6. Injustice and Oppression:

- Discrimination: Treating others unfairly based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other factors, perpetuating inequality and injustice.

- Abuse of Power: Using one's position of authority to oppress or exploit others, denying them justice and dignity.

7. Division and Strife:

- Gossip: Spreading rumors or speaking negatively about others behind their backs, leading to division and conflict.

- Sowing Discord: Deliberately causing division within communities, families, or churches through manipulation and deceit.

8. Idolatry and False Worship:

- Idolatry: Placing anything or anyone above God in importance, such as money, power, or personal relationships.

- False Teachings: Spreading doctrines that distort or contradict the truth of God's Word, leading others astray.

9. Addictions and Self-Destructive Behavior:

- Substance Abuse: Engaging in excessive and harmful use of drugs or alcohol, leading to physical, mental, and spiritual harm.

- Compulsive Behavior: Allowing habits or behaviors to control one's life, such as gambling or excessive spending, leading to destructive consequences.

10. Neglect of Spiritual Practices:

- Apathy: Lack of interest or concern for spiritual growth, leading to a stagnant or deteriorating relationship with God.

- Neglect of Prayer and Scripture: Failing to engage in regular communication with God or study of His Word, resulting in spiritual weakness and vulnerability to sin.

Conclusion

Corrupt fruit is the natural outcome of a heart that is not in tune with God's will. These examples highlight the various ways in which sin can manifest in a person's life, leading to behaviors that are destructive to oneself and others. Recognizing these manifestations is essential for believers to evaluate

their own lives, seek God's transformation, and produce the good fruit that reflects a genuine relationship with Him.

Lesson on Matthew 7:19

Introduction

Matthew 7:19 is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, where He uses the metaphor of trees and their fruit to teach about the consequences of one's actions and the importance of genuine faith. This verse serves as a warning about the fate of those whose lives produce "corrupt fruit," underscoring the need for true righteousness and alignment with God's will.

Scripture (KJV)

Matthew 7:19:

19. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Key Points and Explanation

1. Metaphor of Trees and Fruit:

- Tree as a Metaphor for People: In this context, the "tree" represents individuals, while "fruit" symbolizes the outcomes or manifestations of their actions and character.

- Good vs. Bad Fruit: A good tree produces good fruit, symbolizing righteous behavior and a heart aligned with God. Conversely, a corrupt tree produces bad fruit, representing sinful actions and a heart estranged from God.

2. Judgment and Consequences:

- Hewn Down and Cast into the Fire: This imagery signifies judgment and destruction for those who fail to produce good fruit. It serves as a stark warning that a life characterized by sin and disobedience will ultimately lead to separation from God.

- Symbolism of Fire: Fire in biblical terms often represents purification, judgment, or destruction. In this context, it highlights the severity of the consequences for living a life contrary to God's will.

3. Call for Genuine Faith:

- Authentic Righteousness: Jesus emphasizes the need for a genuine relationship with God that results in righteous living. Mere outward appearances or verbal professions of faith are insufficient if not accompanied by actions that reflect God's character.

- Transformation: The verse underscores the necessity for inner transformation, where a heart submitted to God naturally produces actions that align with His commandments and values.

4. Discernment of True and False Prophets:

- Context of False Prophets: This teaching is part of a larger passage warning against false prophets who appear righteous but are inwardly corrupt. Jesus instructs His followers to discern true from false teachers by examining the fruit of their lives.

- Criteria for Evaluation: Believers are encouraged to evaluate leaders and teachers based on their actions and the fruit they produce, ensuring they align with God's truth and righteousness.

Application

1. Self-Examination:

- Regularly assess your actions, attitudes, and motivations. Are they producing good fruit that reflects a heart aligned with God?

- Seek God's help in identifying and addressing areas of sin and weakness, allowing Him to transform your heart and produce good fruit.

2. Pursuit of Righteousness:

- Strive to cultivate virtues such as love, patience, kindness, and humility in your daily life. These are indicators of good fruit and a heart in tune with God.

- Engage in spiritual practices such as prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers to nurture your relationship with God and grow in righteousness.

3. Discernment and Accountability:

- Be vigilant in discerning the character and teachings of those who claim to be spiritual leaders. Evaluate them by the fruit they produce, ensuring they align with biblical truth.

- Surround yourself with a community of believers who can offer support, encouragement, and accountability in your spiritual journey.

4. Witness and Impact:

- Let your life be a testament to God's transformative power by producing good fruit that serves as a witness to others.

- Seek opportunities to impact others positively, demonstrating the love and righteousness of God through your actions and interactions.

Conclusion

Matthew 7:19 serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of producing good fruit in our lives as evidence of genuine faith and alignment with God's will. This verse challenges believers to examine their hearts, pursue righteousness, and live lives that reflect God's character and love. By understanding and applying these principles, believers can ensure their lives bear good fruit, leading to eternal life with God.

This lesson focuses on the literal meaning and implications of Matthew 7:19, highlighting the importance of genuine faith and righteous living. If there's anything more specific you'd like to explore or discuss, feel free to let me know!

By identifying and addressing areas of corruption, believers can cultivate a life that honors God and serves as a testament to His transformative power.

Lesson on Matthew 7:20-21

Introduction

In Matthew 7:20-21, Jesus continues His teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, emphasizing the importance of discerning true followers of God and the necessity of doing the Father's will. This passage challenges believers to examine their faith and actions, highlighting that not everyone who claims to follow Jesus will enter the kingdom of heaven. Instead, entry into the kingdom requires genuine faith and obedience to God's will.

Scripture (KJV)

Matthew 7:20-21:

20. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Key Points and Explanation

1. Discernment by Fruits (Verse 20):

- Recognizing True Followers: Jesus reiterates that believers can discern the true nature of individuals by observing the fruit of their lives. Good fruit is evidence of a heart aligned with God, while corrupt fruit indicates a heart estranged from Him.

- Importance of Actions: The emphasis on fruit highlights that genuine faith is demonstrated through actions. Mere words or professions of faith are insufficient without corresponding righteous behavior.

2. Not Everyone Will Enter the Kingdom (Verse 21):

- Empty Professions: Jesus warns that not everyone who calls Him "Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven. This underscores that verbal acknowledgment of Jesus as Lord is not enough if it is not accompanied by obedience and submission to God's will.

- Doing the Will of the Father: Entry into the kingdom of heaven is reserved for those who do the will of the Father. This highlights the importance of aligning one's life with God's purposes and commands.

3. The Will of the Father:

Understanding the will of the Father is crucial for living a life that is pleasing to God. The will of the Father can be understood in several key areas:

- Obedience to God's Commands:

- Following the commandments given in Scripture, including loving God and loving one's neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40).

- Living a life of holiness, righteousness, and integrity in accordance with God's laws.

- Repentance and Faith:

- Acknowledging sin, seeking forgiveness, and turning away from sinful behavior (Acts 3:19).

- Placing faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior and trusting in His sacrifice for salvation (John 6:40).

- Spiritual Growth and Transformation:

- Growing in spiritual maturity and becoming more Christlike in character (Romans 12:2).

- Developing the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

- Advancing God's Kingdom:

- Engaging in the Great Commission by sharing the gospel and making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

- Serving others, especially the marginalized and needy, as an expression of God's love and justice (Matthew 25:35-40).

4. Implications for Believers:

- Authentic Faith: Believers are called to ensure that their faith is genuine and not merely a verbal declaration. True discipleship involves a heart transformation that results in obedience to God's will.

- Examine Actions and Motives: Regular self-examination is necessary to ensure that one's actions align with the teachings of Jesus and reflect a sincere commitment to God.
- Focus on God's Will: Prioritize understanding and fulfilling the will of the Father in every aspect of life. This includes aligning goals, desires, and actions with God's purposes.

Application

1. Self-Examination:

- Reflect on your faith and actions. Do they reflect a genuine relationship with God and a commitment to His will?
- Identify areas of your life where you may be relying on mere verbal professions rather than true obedience.

2. Pursue Righteous Living:

- Commit to living a life that reflects God's commands and values, demonstrating love, integrity, and justice in all interactions.
- Actively seek opportunities to grow spiritually and develop the fruit of the Spirit.

3. Engage in God's Mission:

- Participate in sharing the gospel and making disciples, contributing to the advancement of God's kingdom on earth.
- Serve others selflessly, embodying the love and compassion of Jesus in practical ways.

4. Seek God's Guidance:

- Regularly pray for wisdom and discernment to understand and fulfill God's will in your life.
- Study Scripture to gain deeper insights into God's desires and commands.

Conclusion

Matthew 7:20-21 challenges believers to evaluate the authenticity of their faith and the sincerity of their relationship with God. By emphasizing the importance of doing the will of the Father, Jesus calls His followers to live lives characterized by genuine obedience and righteous actions. Understanding and applying these principles ensures that believers produce good fruit and remain aligned with God's purposes, ultimately securing their place in the kingdom of heaven.

This lesson focuses on the literal meaning and implications of Matthew 7:20-21, highlighting the importance of genuine faith and obedience to the will of the Father. If you have any further questions or need clarification, feel free to ask!!

What kind of clothes must we wear? (1 Tim 2:9, 1 Peter 3:3)

A contrast between the biblical teachings on modesty and inner beauty found in 1 Timothy 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:3 with contemporary cultural trends in the modern Western world. This will provide a clearer understanding of how these biblical principles apply in today's context and the challenges believers might face in living them out.

Introduction

The biblical teachings on modesty found in 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4 emphasize the importance of inner beauty and godly character over outward adornment. These principles guide believers to live lives that honor God and reflect His values. In contrast, modern Western culture often promotes a different set of values that prioritize outward appearance, material success, and self-expression. Understanding these differences can help believers navigate cultural pressures while staying true to biblical teachings.

Scripture (KJV)

1 Timothy 2:9-10:

9. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10. But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1 Peter 3:3-4:

3. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4. But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Key Points and Explanation

1. Biblical Standards of Modesty and Inner Beauty

- Focus on Inner Beauty:

- Both Paul and Peter emphasize the importance of inner beauty, characterized by a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in God's sight.

- True beauty comes from a heart transformed by the Holy Spirit, reflecting humility, self-control, and godliness.

- Modesty in Appearance and Behavior:

- Believers are encouraged to dress modestly, avoiding extravagant displays of wealth or beauty. Modesty reflects simplicity and humility, aligning with a heart that seeks to honor God rather than seeking attention.

- Modesty also involves self-control and sober-mindedness in behavior, demonstrating respect for oneself and others.

2. Modern Western Culture and Its Values

- Emphasis on Outward Appearance:

- Modern Western culture often prioritizes outward appearance, with a strong focus on fashion, beauty, and material success. The media and entertainment industries frequently glorify physical beauty and material wealth, influencing societal norms and individual behavior.

- There is a significant emphasis on self-expression through fashion and personal style, sometimes leading to immodesty or a lack of restraint.

- Materialism and Consumerism:

- Western culture is heavily influenced by consumerism, where success and self-worth are often measured by possessions, wealth, and status.

- This materialistic mindset can lead to an overemphasis on acquiring and displaying material goods, contrasting with the biblical call for simplicity and contentment.

- Individualism and Self-Promotion:

- Individualism is a core value in Western culture, often manifesting as a focus on personal rights, self-promotion, and individual expression.

- Social media platforms amplify this focus, encouraging individuals to present idealized versions of themselves and seek validation through likes and followers.

3. Contrasting Biblical Teachings with Modern Culture

- Inner Beauty vs. Outward Appearance:

- The Bible prioritizes inner beauty and character over outward appearance, emphasizing qualities like humility, kindness, and godliness.

- Modern culture often reverses this priority, valuing external appearances and material success over inner character.

- Simplicity and Humility vs. Materialism and Consumerism:

- Biblical modesty calls for simplicity and humility, reflecting a heart aligned with God's values and contentment in His provision.

- Western culture frequently promotes consumerism and materialism, where worth and identity are tied to possessions and wealth.

- Community and Service vs. Individualism and Self-Promotion:

- The Bible encourages believers to focus on serving others and living in community, reflecting God's love through good works and selflessness.

- In contrast, Western culture often emphasizes individualism and self-promotion, where personal success and recognition are prioritized over community and service.

4. Application for Believers Today

- Cultivating Inner Beauty:

- Focus on developing a godly character and nurturing inner beauty through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with other believers.

- Seek to embody the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

- Practicing Modesty:

- Choose clothing and behaviors that reflect modesty and humility, aligning with a heart that seeks to honor God rather than conform to societal pressures.

- Be mindful of the message your appearance and actions communicate, ensuring they reflect your identity as a follower of Christ.

- Resisting Cultural Pressures:

- Be discerning about cultural influences and resist the pressure to conform to values that prioritize outward appearance, materialism, and self-promotion.

- Embrace a countercultural lifestyle that prioritizes God's values and reflects His character in all aspects of life.

- Demonstrating Good Works:

- Engage in good works that reflect your faith and commitment to God, serving others with love and compassion.

- Use your talents and resources to bless others and advance God's kingdom, making a positive impact in your community.

Conclusion

The teachings of 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4 provide a clear contrast to the values of modern Western culture, emphasizing the importance of inner beauty, modesty, and godly character. As believers navigate cultural pressures, they are called to prioritize spiritual virtues over outward appearances, living lives that honor God and reflect His transformative power.

By embracing biblical principles of modesty and inner beauty, Christians can serve as a powerful witness to others, showcasing the difference that a life transformed by Christ can make in a world that often prioritizes external values. Through a commitment to godliness, humility, and service, believers can navigate cultural challenges while staying true to their faith and calling.

This lesson integrates the teachings of 1 Timothy 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:3 with a contrast to contemporary Western cultural trends, providing practical insights for living out biblical modesty and inner beauty today.

What does the bible say about the wearing of jewelry? (1 Tim 2:9, 1 Peter 3:3)

What does the Bible say about women wearing men's clothes and men wearing women's clothes? (Deu 22:5 and Gen 1:27)

What is suppose to beautify us? (1 Tim 2:10, 1 Peter 3:4)

The Most High saves the total man? (Isaiah 1:10-17)

Lip service Isaiah 29:13

Dead and unclean on the inside (Matt 23:25-28; Luke 11:37-40)

How are you to present yourself? (Rom 12:1)

What are you suppose to be? (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19-20)

The conclusion of the matter (Ecc 12:13 and 1 Thes 5:23)