

Luke 6:43 - 7:10

A Tree and Its Fruit

⁴³ “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

The Wise and Foolish Builders

⁴⁶ “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

The Faith of the Centurion

¹ When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, ⁵ because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” ⁶ So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. ⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.” ¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

Luke 6:43 - 7:10

1. The story Jesus tells in Luke 6:43-45 is also in Matthew (Matt 7:15-20). Does the additional lead-in sentence in Matthew help you understand these verses better?
2. What did Jesus say is the source of good and evil things? (6:45)
3. What is it about you that must change in order for good behavior to be produced?
4. How do other people know about the state of your heart and your faith?
5. Why might people build a house without a good foundation? What can happen to these people?
6. Do you know the foundational beliefs of the church which you attend?
7. During the last “storm” to hit your life, what did you learn about your life’s “foundation?” What “building blocks” do you need to add to your foundation? (Love, forgiveness, faith, wisdom, control of anger, perseverance, generosity...)
8. What can you do to get ready for the next storm in your life? Do you need help from a mentor, friend, accountability partner, pastor, or prayer group? What are you doing about getting the help you need?
9. On what basis do the Jewish elders request Jesus’ help for the centurion’s servant? (7:4,5) How does their approach differ from the centurion’s? (7:6-8) How does this relate to Jesus’ response in verse 9?
10. What different character qualities were demonstrated by the centurion in this story? What qualities would be useful to remember when we ask God for help?
11. The centurion presented his request to Jesus through friends; is this similar to asking friends to pray for your needs?
12. Why is it difficult for us to be as dependent on God as the centurion was?

(The story of the centurion is also in Matthew 8:5-13. Matthews tells it differently to emphasize the aspect of *faith in God* to his largely Jewish audience. On the other hand, for his mostly gentile audience, Luke points out the good relations between (some) Jews and gentiles in 7:3-5 emphasizing that *God’s salvation is for both Jews and gentiles.*)