

Making Disciples - As You Go
Lesson Seven: Basics of Mentoring
Inspecting Fruit and Charting Growth

I. Introduction:

In today's lesson we are going to talk about the **NECESSITY** of inspecting the fruit that is being produced day by day in one another's life for the purpose of charting spiritual growth **STRATEGIES**.

The word "Fruit" refers to the **PRODUCT** of one's life. It would include one's words, actions, attitudes, and responses.

II. Inspecting Fruit and Charting Growth:

A. We have a Biblical **MANDATE** to inspect fruit.

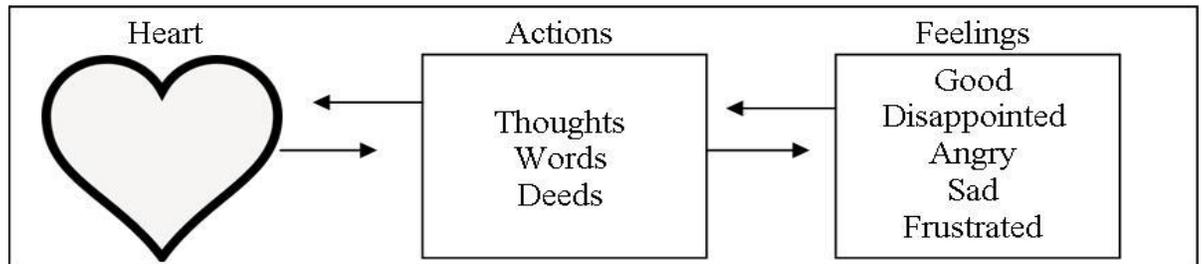
➤ See Matthew 7:15-20

Essentially, Jesus is saying that **FRUIT** always reveals **ROOT** and that's a good thing because it gives us opportunity to work for **CHANGE**.

Notice Galatians 5:19-23

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, 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. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:19-23)

The Behavior Model:



Another way of representing this would be to say, "You **FEEL** what you feel because you **DO** what you do, and you do what you do, because in your heart you **WANT** what you want."

Q. Why is it easier to change behavior than to change the heart? Why is the heart always the superior target?

We must inspect fruit in a Biblical way:

➤ See Matthew 7:1-5

For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
(1 Corinthians 2:11)

- We can judge actions, but we cannot judge **MOTIVES**.
- We do not **CONDEMN**. We **HELP**.
- We do not judge others based on our **PREFERENCES**.
- We must judge others in the **SAME** way we would want them to judge us.

Q. How would you want someone to approach you with a concern about you or if they suspect sin in your life?

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:12-13)

Since we are often **BLIND** to our faults we are all in need of daily exhortation (encouragement) in order to press toward Christ-likeness. Therefore, looking for fruit should be seen as loving component of body life.

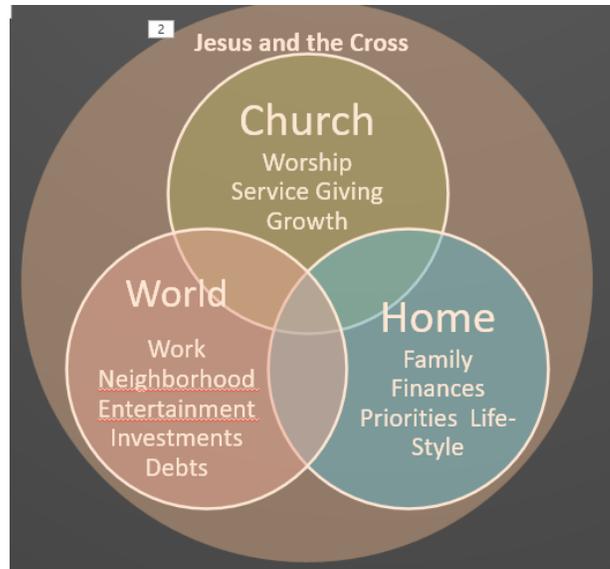
B. How do we chart for **CHANGE**?

Essentially, one should ask the following questions:

- How do I help this person **CONNECT** to God, His Word, and to an authentic group of Christ-followers in Biblically defined relationships?
- How do I help this person **GROW** in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through the intentional application of Biblical truth so that life change takes place?
- How do I help this person grow in their ability to **SERVE** inside and outside the church?
- How do I help this person **MULTIPLY** themselves in the life of another person?

Q. What are some ways in which you could help some do these four core things?

Furthermore, there are three basic spheres of life that every person lives in.



As people mature, the size of Jesus grows and they contract.

Positive and negative fruit is always revealed in a particular context. The goal is help someone see how **JESUS** intersects with these essential arenas of life and then strategize together toward transformation.

III. Conclusion:

Evaluating fruit is essential because it reveals the heart. This process will not always be appreciated but it is necessary. The reality is that even the way a person responds to this process will further reveal the heart. We must do so as non-condemning concerned partners so that our efforts are interpreted by the disciple as being helpful. Moreover, whenever one points out the wrong, they must also point them to the right.

IV. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15)

Review the Spiritual Characteristics and find yourself. Then identify what the next step is for your maturing. As best as possible, base your analysis on the scripture references to see if you are ready to take a step forward in your condition or make corrections to self in your current state.

Study the Venn diagram of church, world and family and identify specific areas you need to give to Jesus and pray that He will give that to your heart.