

Save A Tree

I. Introduction: Let me put your mind at ease, this is not an environmental activism message. God said: *"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease"* (**Genesis 8:22**). So, I am not tree hugging.

A. Let's start off by thinking about imagery written in the book of Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 17:5-8**).

1. Similarly, the book of Psalms (**Psalms 1:1-3**).
2. And again, (**Psalms 92:12-15**).

B. The imagery is not always good (**Luke 3:3-9**).

1. The imagery that John used is powerful and was similarly used in the past (**Ezekiel 15:1-8**).
2. The thing is, the tree doesn't have to perish (**Ezekiel 18:30-32**).

II. Body: **Luke 13:1-9**

A. Man was not created to be evil (**Genesis 1:31** and **Ecclesiastes 7:29**).

1. Think about what God asked Israel at a time they were being sinful (**Jeremiah 2:21**).
2. It is our choice to be the good or evil tree (**Matthew 12:33**).

B. Think about what Jesus taught concerning bearing fruit (**John 15:1-11**).

1. We know the Lord taught to inspect fruit to tell the faithfulness of the teacher (**Matthew 7:15-20**)? What about the internal audit of our own fruit (**I Corinthians 11:31**)?
2. So, what does your fruit say? What if your fruit comes from darkness instead of the light (**Ephesians 5:9-11**)?
2. Think about a contrast of the sinful vs. the spiritual fruit (**Romans 6:21-22; 7:5** and **Galatians 5:19-24**).

C. Being the good tree (**Luke 6:43-46**).

1. It starts within (**Psalms 37:30-31**, **Luke 8:15**, **Romans 6:17**, and **Hebrews 3:12**).
2. Then our actions show who we are (**Romans 6:17** and **I John 2:29; 3:7**).

D. If you were to find yourself unfruitful... (**Matthew 21:28-32**).

1. Think about the process of repentance (**Matthew 3:8**, **Acts 26:20**, and **Revelation 2:5**).
2. Then we have to grow to fruitful productivity (**II Peter 1:3-11**).
3. Being fruitful in the right things (**Colossians 1:10**).

III. Conclusion: To save the tree, keep on being productive (**Titus 3:8; 3:14**).