

COMMUNION SERIES ON LUKE:
God the Son, Son of Man



Avoiding Deception

STUDY GUIDE • LUKE 6:43–45

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Avoiding Deception

Luke 6:43–45

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested Icebreaker:

Have the whole GG participate in a game of Charades. Prepare small strips of paper containing the names of popular people. Have each member pick one strip of paper and try to act like the personality while the rest of the GG tries to guess who he/she is trying to impersonate.

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- [I Surrender All](#)
- [I Will Follow](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will behave in accordance with their identity in Christ.
2. GG members will discern others by observing their behavior.

INTRODUCTION

Jesus continued his teaching on discerning people. In the previous section, he exhorted his disciples to self-examine before examining others. In this section, Jesus teaches his disciples to discern others through their behavior.

Jesus taught using illustrations from nature (vv. 43-44)

Jesus taught his disciples that a tree determines the kind of fruit it bears. A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. Conversely, by looking at the fruits of a tree, one can discern what kind of tree it is (cf. Matthew 12:33).

1. What did Jesus say was impossible for trees to do?
2. Instead, what is naturally expected of trees?
3. What was Jesus teaching regarding the expectations people should have? (cf. James 3:12)

Jesus applied the illustration to people (v. 45)

Just as a tree determines the kind of fruit it bears, so a person's heart determines their behavior. So, Jesus taught his disciples that though they may not see the hearts of people, they can observe their behavior and discern what is in their hearts. (cf. Matthew 7:15-17)

1. What connection does Jesus make between the treasure hidden in a person's heart and their behavior?
2. What should we focus on if we want to change our behavior?
3. Do you think it is possible for us to change our own hearts? Why or why not?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Application

If you are a true believer of Jesus Christ, then your behavior should reflect this. In what ways can you improve your testimony so that you act more like a witness of Christ? On the flip side, how are you discerning people through their behavior? Give some examples of behaviors that you take note of.

PRAYER ITEM

O Lord, I acknowledge that You alone can change my heart so that I can become a godly person and act according to Your will. I surrender my heart and my life to Your transforming work so that You will be glorified through my life. Grant me wisdom and discernment as I interact with others. Protect me from false teachers, and give me a burden to reach out to those who do not yet personally know You. All this I pray, in Christ's name. Amen. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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