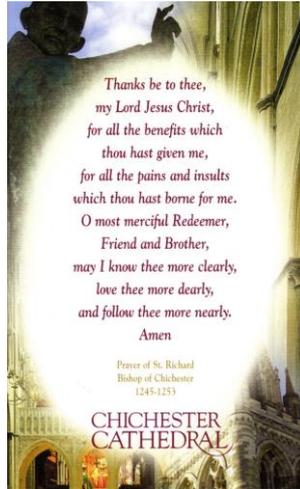


Clear vision, open hearts, fruitful lives

Luke 6: 37-45



- Do we need to change the way we look upon other people?
- What is the key to having a heart open to loving God and others?
- Are we seeing overflowing fruit of the Spirit in our lives?
- What encouragement can we offer one another for 2018?

Clear vision: seeing others as Jesus sees them

Luke 6: 37-42

“For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4: 12

- God is our judge who speaks into our lives with His Word.
- We have the choice to condemn others or to forgive them.
- Jesus points us to God’s way of forgiveness and mercy.
- He calls us hypocrites if we look first at the sins of others.
- A critical spirit is sinful and spreads negativity.
- We must uphold the truth but avoid harsh judgements.
- *“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and power to do what pleases Him.” Philippians 2: 12-13 NLT*



Are our hearts open to respond to God each day?

Luke 6: 45

"I pray also that the eyes of your *heart* may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power in us who believe."

Ephesians 1: 18 understanding and equipping

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the *heart*." **1 Samuel 16: 7** true character

"Were not our *hearts* burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" **Luke 24: 32** revelation

"Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your *hearts*.... See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving *heart* that turns away from the living God." **Hebrews 3: 7,12** a response from deep within

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in *heart*, and you will find rest for your souls." **Matthew 11: 29** deep peace

"I will give you a new *heart* and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your *heart* of stone and give you a *heart* of flesh" **Ezekiel 36: 26** rebirth

"Create in me a pure *heart*, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalms 51: 10 cleansing and forgiveness

"As she listened to us, the Lord opened her *heart*." **Acts 16: 14 NLT** called to act

Fruitful lives: are we *Walking the Way* with Jesus so that He can work through us?

Luke 6: 43-45

"Then Christ will make His home in your *hearts* as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." **Ephesians 4:17 NLT**

"Just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions." **Matthew 7: 20 NLT**

"What you say flows from what is in your *heart*." **Luke 6: 45 NLT**

The call to deepen our Christian discipleship by developing the 10 Holy Habits observed in Acts 2 can be life-transforming. The habits are: biblical teaching - fellowship - breaking of bread - prayer - giving - service - eating together - gladness and generosity - worship - the making of more disciples.

