



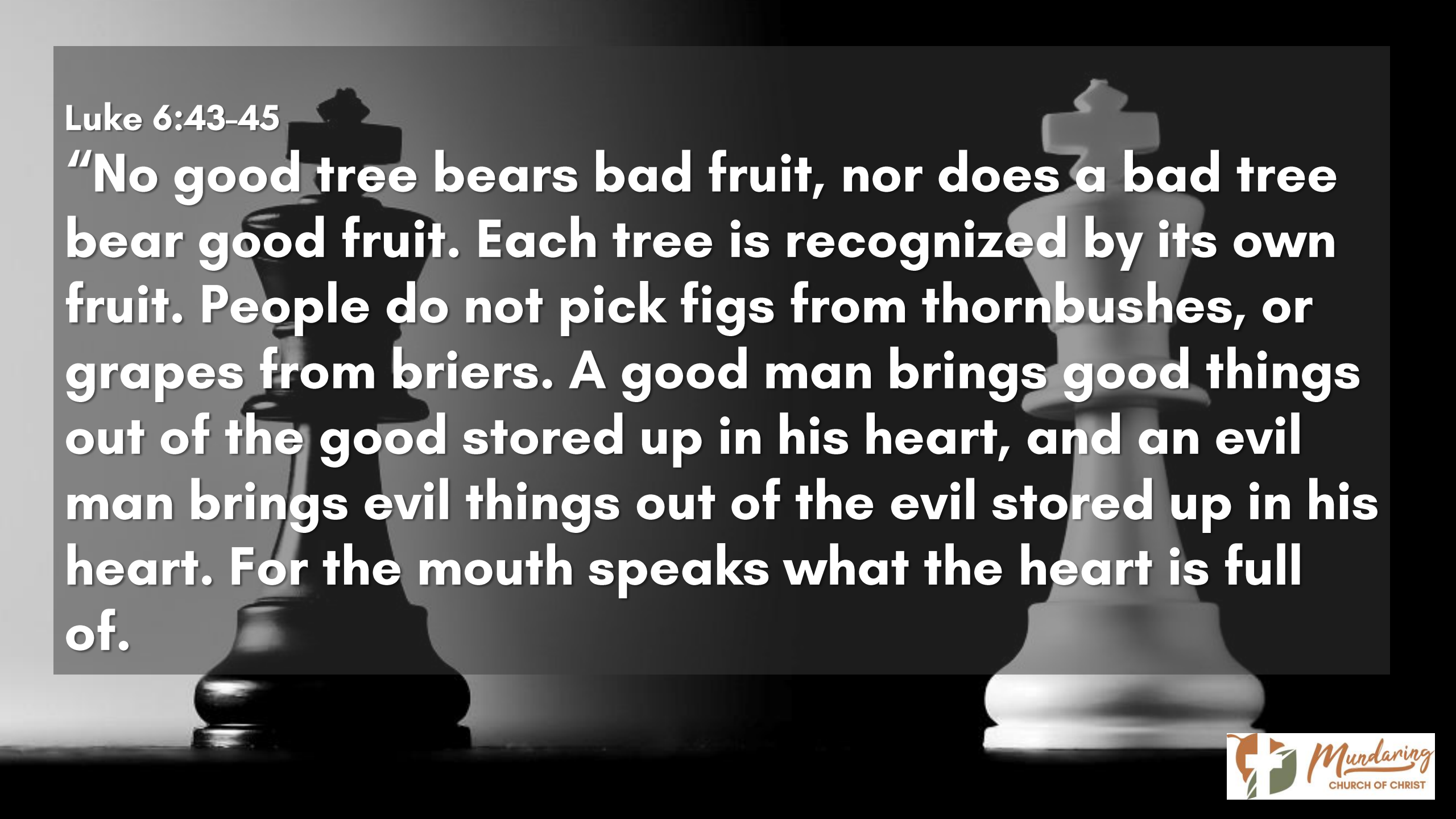
Proverbs 4:1-5

**My children, listen when your father corrects you.
Pay attention and learn good judgment, for I am giving
you good guidance.
Don't turn away from my instructions.
For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved as my
mother's only child.
My father taught me, "Take my words to heart.
Follow my commands, and you will live.**



Two ways to live.

- 1. The way of wisdom.**
- 2. The way of foolishness.**



Luke 6:43-45

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

How we live reveals what's in our heart.

- Hannah's prayer reveals her heart.



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- Hannah's prayer reveals her heart.
- Eli's sons had no regard for the LORD.



Not every shepherd knows God.

John 10:1-4

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

**Not every shepherd knows God.
Learn to discern the difference.
What reveals an authentic shepherd?**

John 10:9-10

⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

How we live reveals what's in our heart.

- Hannah's prayer reveals her heart.
- Eli's sons had no regard for the LORD.
- "But Samuel..."

1. God brought justice.
2. God raised up the right one.

1 Samuel 2:34-35

³⁴ ""And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day. ³⁵ **I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind.** I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.

- **Learn to discern who to listen to.**

**Examine the fruit of their life.
Their voice or His voice?**



- **Learn to discern who to listen to.**
- **Human character is not God's character.**

God is consistent/faithful.

God has acted to bring justice.

Don't judge God by the actions of people who don't know Him.

Extend grace for genuine mistakes

- **Learn to discern who to listen to.**
- **Human character is not God's character.**
- **God chose the church despite our brokenness.**

**The priestly house has not been
abandoned. (Ex 19:6, 1 Peter 2:9)**

Don't abandon God's house.

Choose the way of wisdom.