



**Series: The Fruit of the Spirit**  
**Title: You will know them by their Fruits**

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Today, we are going to start a new series, about the Fruit of the Spirit. We have been here two months now, and, every day we fall more in love with the city... every day we fall more in love with you all, with Courage church, with this place that God has called us to

and with the mission he has given us. The first thing we felt like God was saying to do, from a teaching perspective was to start with the heart... so we began with an "Intentions" series... why do we even do what we do? What is in your heart? And we have been so blessed by the testimonies from that series... so we started with the heart... whats inside? And now we are going to move into the Fruits... exploring the question "What does this look out in my life?" This series will be based on the 5th chapter of Paul's letter to the Galatians, however, we will not solely be in Galatians. We are going to start today with the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, then work our way into the Red Letters before we get to Paul.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 says:

Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves

remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

This passage in Jeremiah is fascinating. Absolutely fascinating. There is a tree, here at the end of the passage... it was planted by water, it sends out its roots by the stream, it doesn't fear the heat, it stays green... It is not anxious in the year of drought... year after year after year it does not cease to bear fruit. A traveler could come on a journey through a desert area in a season of drought, and see this tree and it look absolutely beautiful and he could come up to this fruit and pick up the fruit and bite into the fruit and it would refresh him. It would rejuvenate him, it would give him a boost to keep going. And that tree represents the man who trusts in the Lord. There will always be fruit... there will always be refreshing, it will always be juicy even when the earth is dry.

But notice how the passage starts... CURSED... is the man, who trusts in man. Who makes flesh his strength. Who thinks “I got this. I can do what I want, I can say what I want, I can believe what I want, I can handle myself”... He is like a shrub in the desert. Another translation says he is like a “bush” in the desert.

The word translated there as shrub, or by some translators as bush, is the Hebrew word “ar'ar” - and though its translated generically in English, its actually a specific type of Juniper tree and its one of those trees that you see sometimes that looks beautiful, and has berries that grow on its sometimes thorny branches, and in many cases the berries look delicious.

But the berries are not delicious. The berries at best are hallow, dry and empty of juice, and at worst will actually harm you if you bite into it.

A more common name for these trees is the “Apple of Sodom” tree, because it grows in the desert near the dead sea, where Sodom at one time was, before it was destroyed.

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a tragic one... one of unrepentence and judgment... The bible says (Genesis 19) that in this moment when God destroyed the cities, that he rained sulfur and fire on them and overthrew the cities, and the valleys, and all the inhabitants, and all that grew on the

ground. God washed the whole place away, and he told Lot and his family, "don't ever look back." - why? Because there was nothing there anymore. There was nothing to look back on, everything that was was evil, and everything that was, is gone... but Lots wife, she wanted the old life. She hated that she had to leave behind what she knew and so she looked back on it. and according to the text, when she looked back, she to was destroyed.

So this tree grows near that region, and at first glance this tree would have looked beautiful. The fruit would have appeared delicious.

So to Jeremiah, the problem with this first tree was what was inside. It appeared to be a healthy tree growing in the middle of the desert... a healthy tree growing in the middle of the drought... but for someone passing through, dying for something refreshing to eat or drink, it would have been a nasty, bitter disappointment.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:17-18 "every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

Here is a Hint: The fruit he is talking about is not apples and oranges. He is talking about the outpouring of our lives. He is talking about what the gospel looks like through us, and the ar'ar tree would have been similar to the diseased tree that Jesus is talking about. What Jesus is saying is that there are a lot more of you that say you follow me, than actually follow me!

There are a lot more of you that think you know me, but you don't know me. Thats why Jesus goes on to say "Not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord" will enter the Kingdom of heaven. And people will be so surprised... they will say things like:

"didn't we prophecy in your name?"

Wait a second... isn't prophecy one of the gifts of the Spirit? How did we function in a gift yet not know you?

“didn’t we cast out demons in your name?”

“didn’t we do mighty works in your name?”

and Jesus will say to them “depart from me, you workers of lawlessness... you never knew me.”

because where was the fruit?

So this passage makes it clear... we can prophecy... and that can be a great thing... but its not necessarily fruit... or could possibly it be diseased fruit? We can cast out demons. Awesome... but was it diseased fruit? Mighty works? Aren’t mighty works good? that seems like the definition of fruit, no? Maybe. But maybe it is fruit from the diseased tree. Maybe when you bite into it you realize, “the spirit is not actually in this”

Maybe you helped other people change... maybe you changed the whole world... but were you changed? Was there internal change in you? Before long, did you become different?

Is there a new way about you?

Is there a new way about our church?

Is there a new way about our community?

The Christian life has a personal element to it, as well as a public element, as well as a corporate element. And some of us, we work for that public element, but nothing ever changes inside of us. There is no fruit at work in our life, and we will get to that a little later... but lets start with the Corporate element... lets answer the question “What does this look like for us?” as a body.

A few weeks ago, it was the last time we did the BBQ so it would have been June 14th, long after service was over, and most everybody had headed home and only a few of us remained in the building, I was sitting in one of the pews working on my laptop when a woman came in with her daughter. She approached me and asked looking puzzled, “are you the pastor?” I answered “yes ‘mam!” and stood and introduced myself to her. I guess that she and her daughter had been around before, but this was my

first time meeting them. She told me that “they told me you were the pastor, but you just seemed so young!” and we talked for a little while, and finally she just came out and told me what was going on. That she had been evicted from her home, and that she had no-where to go. Nowhere to sleep, nowhere to take her daughter. No house. No shelter. She asked if we could give her a ride out of the city and drop her off at one of the shelters on the other side of 8 mile, and she would get things figured out from there.

We didn’t want to just drop her off at a shelter and leave, we know the system better than that, enough to know that she was not guaranteed a spot in any of those places, that it was already late afternoon and it was a pouring rainy day. So Emily began calling every shelter outside of the city, looking for a place that we could take her and every single one of them were full. Then she called all of the shelters inside of the city, and every single one of them were full. There was no where to take this woman.

Now, where I believe in doing ministry for the least of these, I do not necessarily believe that God has called us to start a shelter, there are lots of organizations that we can partner with who do those things... but what I do know is this. People can talk all day long about the poor... about why they are poor... about bad choices and addictions and laziness... we can talk all day about how “the poor in our society is much different than the poor in Jesus’ day...” maybe. Maybe not. But this is what I know for sure.

I was frustrated that day because it rained during our BBQ.

This mom had to tell her daughter that she was not going to be able to put a roof over her head during the rain. And it was a storm. I remember at one point, her getting frustrated and saying to the girl “lets go.” - and the little girl responded with these words and I will never forget them:

“What are we going to do?”

Kids are defenseless. They simply can not take care of themselves, and there is no justice in an 8 year old daughter sleeping in the rain on account of what her mom has or hasn’t been able to get figured out in her life. and how we are able to help her... the least of these in that moment...

that is called fruit.

So we called hotels, air BNBs, we looked into options for them, and at the end of the day we were able to help her stay a couple more nights where she was, and then Matt, Emily, and Ben went and helped move her into a house with her family down river for now.

And when she approaches our beautiful building she sees something that should refresh her. That should be a breath of fresh air for her. But when she walks through the door with her daughter, and for a moment finally can get her daughter out of the rain.. If we, in the end send her on her way with nothing more than she came in with, then we are that ar'ar tree. We are like the Sodom apples... it looks so good, but there is no juice. There is nothing flowing through us.

How easily the church could look like the ar'ar tree.

And that almost happened that day. We tried everything we could to help, and for a long time it felt like we were not going to be able to do much. Nothing seemed to yield a result at first... and my mind, all I can think about is the long term... I think, "if we just had an apartment building, we could let them stay while we have people working with her to get a job and get back on her feet..." Again, I don't want to be a shelter, but I want to be a place that people can come to when they need to rebuild their lives, and be able to help them through the process. Andy Stanley has this amazing quote that says "Do for some what you wish that you could do for everyone" and I would have loved to have been able to offered something like that to this woman and her daughter. But in the end we did everything we could for her... We sent her with a couple boxes of groceries, and helped her move into a place that was going to be a better environment for her daughter...

but let me show you how the fruit of the tree planted near the water works. Let me show you what comes of the person who trusts in God and not their own flesh... we acts accordingly knowing God holds everything, not our government or our society or each other... but God.

It reproduces. it just keeps baring fruit! Just like the acorn we talked about last week. How in one acorn is unlimited potential. Unlimited possibilities... enough seeds to plant a forest.

Three weeks ago, we helped a woman fill her pantries with some groceries, and helped her move into a safer environment with her daughter.

Three days ago, some friends of ours from Lansing drove over and dropped off 100 boxes of supplies for us to start an Emergency Food Pantry. Next time someone comes off of the streets or out of their home, and maybe their food stamps are out and they just got fired and they don't get refilled for another two weeks... or maybe their house burned down or maybe they were unexpectedly out of work this week and don't have the money to feed their kids... we may not be able to buy them a new house, but we can at least fill their pantries, if they do have them, with food. We may not be able to give them money necessarily, but we will be able to do something. And this is step one. Its only the beginning.

We also are going to start a benevolent fund... and we are going total right hand doesn't know what your left hand is doing style. There is this little money box that was built into the church when it was first built... and we haven't used it for anything but we are going to start using it now. This is not in the place of tithes and offerings, this is just when you feel like the Spirit is telling you to help the poor in a way in which nobody will ever know about... you slip some cash into the little hole. Cash only for this particular fund. No tax write off, no trumpets.

And then the next time that someone like that mom and her daughter comes off of the street, and we assess the need, Emily or Matt and Dawn or myself and Freddie, we can then go to the box and see what we can do. If there are 80 dollars in there, and we believe that this person genuinely needs all 80 of it, we may give it all to them. We may take a portion of it and rent them a hotel, or take a portion of it and take them to eat or put a little gas in their car if they have a car but are on E and nothing is coming in. Here is the big idea... if there is a need in the church, we want to fill it... if it is practical... we want to create a culture where these things are not abused, but they are used... the church of Acts took care of the needs of one another... nobody had needs, because they all worked together for the

common good of the body... but beyond that... the church is one of the few entities in our world which truly does exist for the sake of people who are not a part of it yet. It functions as a body, and takes care of the body, but it builds a body that does not seek its own well being but rather it seeks and works for the welfare of the community... the welfare of the city as Jeremiah 29:7 puts it.

I was telling Dan, (who donated the entire emergency food pantry), about our idea for benevolence... How we want the church to take it upon themselves to meet the needs of the community. About in most cases relying on the goodness of God's people to be the hands and feet of Jesus and he said "don't stop it with this fund!!!" Have them bring in food. Have them contribute to keeping the pantry going.

its something we can do... tangibly...as a body... to help someone else.

Maybe we can call this "corporate fruit." Fruit we see together. When the church is able to do more for people, you are a part of that! You give to that, you contribute to that. You show up every week and go home and live this stuff. We are not what we are without you. You will hear me say it just about every week, the local church is the hope of the world. Jesus came to establish a new kingdom, and he has given the church the keys to that Kingdom. And in the bible, there are a lot of descriptions of God... a lot of key words that help us understand what God is like... one is God is love. Another is that God is light. In the old testament there are tons names for God and they all mean different things and describe him in different ways.

but as most of you already know, there is a very very very big difference between reading a description of God... or of knowing about God... and actually knowing God.

We can know about his nature... we can know his attributes, but I want to know God. I want our church, our body, to be a body that knows its head. Who knows God. Jesus says that people will know that you are mine... that people will know that you belong to me... by your love... so we always want love to be the fruit of our lives... and there are plenty of verses in the bible about knowing God, and how important that it.



but look at what Jeremiah says, because as far as I can find, its the only verse that describes what knowing God is actually like.. not how it makes you feel, but what the fruit of your life is if you know him.

Jeremiah 22:16 (NASB) says:

“He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?” Declares the Lord.

The English Standard Version puts it this way “He judged the cause of the poor and the needy, Is not this to know me?”

Is not this to know me? Is it not to take care of the needy. Is it not to meet the needs that surround you every day? Do you really think that you know God if you walk past a dozen people on a daily basis who, you have what is needed to help, and you do nothing? If anyone sees his brother in need and yet does nothing, how can the love of God be in that person (1 John 3:17)? Its not. How can the love of God be in the Christian community that closes its doors to the injustices happening in our own backyard, when we can do something to solve them.

We talked a few minutes ago about Sodom. About the desolate land where the ar’ar trees now stand, and what used to be there. And you, probably like me have been seeing a lot on social media lately about the many sins of Sodom and how Christians everywhere think that we are about to relive it... I kid you not, I have gotten emails from people, multiple conversations saying just that...

But can I just encourage everyone to slow down for a moment, catch a breath, and read your bibles.

Did the things that we have been talking about in our world recently go on in Sodom? Yes.

Was God Happy about it? No. Of course not.

Did He destroy Sodom because of it? I am not so sure.

It just doesn’t fit the collective narrative of the bible that describes the nature of God and the reasons he passes judgment, especially when I read

Matthew 25 when Jesus separates people in the final judgment, and he sends away the ones on his left... the ones who “did not do unto the least of these...” The ones who did not know God.

When I read the bible, it seems to me that what happened in Sodom, actually happened because they did not know God. I mean really did not know God... they refused to know him... I am talking about not knowing God in the way that Jeremiah 22:16 says it means to know God.

Look at what Ezekiel 16:49 says, it for the most part is a verse that seems to be missing from the conversation:

Behold, this was the **guilt** of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, **but did not aid the poor and needy**. They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

This was the guilt. And who can judge guilt, besides the judge? This is where he found them guilty, this is where he passed judgment. They did a lot of messed up things in that town, the bible makes that clear. Their sin was great. It was perverse, and there were not even 10 righteous in that whole place (Gen 18:22-33)... but this is what God had against them. This is where he found them guilty. This was what the Prophet specifically named.

They had more than enough, and they did not share it with the ones who needed it. I know, there were other sins... they were sinful people... just like we are. But this verse sheds incredible light on the heart of God. God wants people who know him.

Even this morning, I was praying about this section specifically, and I went on Facebook and saw a really conservative teacher posting about how a really liberal teacher used this verse and verses like it to justify his own sinful lifestyle... and I debated to myself, do I even go there? Do we say anything at all? But then I realized, I am not showing you this stuff to justify someone else's sinful behavior, I am showing you it to call us out on our own!

Because nobody appointed me judge, but I was appointed as shepherd of Courage Church. And I believe that God wants us to be a church who knows him.

What is it to know God?

To plead the cause of the poor and of the needy.

and if our nation is actually heading in a similar direction as Sodom, its for reasons far more wide spread than the ones that people are posting about on the internet as of lately.

Everything in our society is about excess and prosperous ease. Everything in our society is focused on the me monster... on how I can get more. On how I can get further? How can I make more money or grow in my career? How can I have more power? How can I increase?

Its the American way, and you know what? Should we expect anything different? Can we expect anything different than for the world to be the world?

We have to stop expecting non Christians to act like Christians.

How did Jesus respond when he stood before the government in his day? When he was face to face with Pilate, what did he say? He said "My Kingdom is not of this world." (John 19:36)

He didn't try to change the way the government acted, he said that his Kingdom was something different entirely.

But Christians living in this world...

Christians, we should be able to have an expectancy that our fellow Christians act like Christians.

There needs to be a different fruit evident in your life if you belong to Jesus. We can't be like the world. Our goal is the Kingdom of God, not climbing the ranks of this passing kingdom.

Does the bible not talk over and over and over about the way things will go... the way societies will shift? Is being the counter cultural, or against the grain really anything new for the church? its been happening for 2,000 years. Jesus tells us to go... to spread the gospel. To show people what it is to know God... but he tells us that people will reject us. He says we will go places and they will not listen... he even says that their will be towns that on the day of judgment it will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for them (Matthew 10:5-15). He says persecution will come. He says you will be dragged into courts and flogged in the synagogues... but then he says this. He says, when that day comes, "Do not be anxious about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the SPIRIT of your Father speaking through you." (Matthew 10:16-20)

The church, we need to be different. We need to not trust in man, or our own flesh but rely on the Spirit who is going to get us through the times that are ahead. We need to know God.

But what does Jeremiah say it is it to know God?

It is "To plead the cause of the poor and the needy."

So as a body, this is a fruit that I believe needs to come out of this place. We need to be a place that knows God. Jesus says that you will know them by their fruits... well let that be a fruit of ours. Let people know us by that:

"They are a people who know God."

"They know the heart of God. They are making disciples who know God. They are teaching people how to know God more."

So that is what I am calling corporate fruit. And the food pantry, and the benevolence fund... these are just a few things we can do now... in the meantime, before we have the means to get a building to bring people out of the streets and into (which I believe is part of the heart of God for our church in his timing)... before we have a way to facilitate those types of needs.

Because we always can do something. So that is what I am calling the "Corporate Fruit."

But now lets look at personal fruit.

look at this... Lets look at Jeremiah's bush analogy again...

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come."

the Hebrew word that Jeremiah used that we translate as cursed is the word "arur". Its almost the exact same word as the tree, One is spelled a-r-u-r, and the other is spelled a-r-'-a-r.

there is only one letter difference. arur means to bind with a curse; to lay or be under a curse. But its not God who is cursing you. You are cursing yourself. It says that you are cursed if you trust in yourself. If you rely on your own strength. If you depend on the flesh you will give in to the flesh.

Paul in his letter to the Galatians, he talks about fruit. He tells us what fruit looks like. He tells us what will transform in our lives if we have it... if we have the spirit. If we truly have let Jesus have a hold of our lives... He tells us what it looks like, and before that, he tells us what it doesn't look like. Because **before we can ever walk in the Spirit, we have to kill the flesh.** We have to kill the ar'ar trees. Cut them down. Dig up the roots. Burn them entirely.

And that is what Paul does here.

Galatians 5:16-21

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 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.

Notice what he does here. He is saying, if you do these things, you will not inherit the kingdom of God. You won't see it. Its not yours. Its suppose to be yours, but you will never see it. It was built just for you... but you won't see it. Not if you can't put these things behind you. Not if you don't give way to the Spirit and let the Spirit rule your life.

But notice this. Notice what happens to someone who is led by the Spirit. If you walk in the Spirit, you won't gratify the flesh. You will abandon the flesh. You will walk away from who you once were. You won't even look back, you won't want to... There is nothing back there anymore. its gone. Lots wife, she looked back... but there was nothing there. It was gone. That sinful place, that did not know God, had been done away with. And just like that, she was gone.

But just as much as the spirit overcomes the flesh, it also overcomes the law. Look at verse 18... if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Jesus didn't die to give you a bunch of rules. He died to give you a new life. He died to bring liberty, freedom. To set the captives free not to enslave you to a new law or a new set of rules. But if you are a slave to your flesh, then you can never be all in for Jesus. If you belong to your flesh, you don't belong to Jesus. He died to free you from the law, and to free you from yourself but most of us, we want the second part. We love the Jesus of verse 18, the one who frees us from the law. But the Jesus of verse 16, he is a bit harder to swallow.

“Now the works of the flesh are **evident**... another translation says “the works of the flesh are manifest...”

this is the Greek word phaneros and it means widely known, or clearly seen... Widely known... everybody knows this!

they are obvious!

These aren't questionable areas... they are not grey, there is no "I am just not sure about whether or not these things are okay..."

No. The things on this list are wrong. They are clearly wrong. It's all sin. They are plain as day the anti-fruit in someone's life:

sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 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."

And the scary part of all of this to me is this. Jealousy. Fits of Anger. Rivalries. Dissensions, Divisions. ENVY. phaneros (phan - a - rass) - obviously wrong.

They are in the same category as sexual immorality, orgies, things like these. I set apart those six because I personally have been guilty of all six of them and probably more on this list at one point or another in my life. And yet I also have been quick to cast judgment on the ones who commit the other ones.

The church as a whole has been guilty of doing this... we have taken it upon ourselves to point out the things in your life that are separating you from God while turning a blind eye to the sins that are in their midst every day. But Paul lumps them all together.

It's easy to look past strife, divisions or even envy... We hardly notice they are there. Why? Because they are a part of *our* lives... we do these things all the time.

But maybe not orgies. Maybe not sexual immorality.

Not the things that we "don't do," but would be surprised if you didn't do.

I tend to fight harder against the crimes that I have never committed myself.. I tend to look differently on the sins that I don't understand or have not in my own life walked out personally. But Paul lumps them all together. He says all these things, they are obvious! There is no separation... he

says “are you guilty?” then you are guilty. There is no order. They are not ranked from worst to best. They are all the “anti-fruit.” They are the works of the flesh... they are all the ar’ar tree. They look so good on the outside... they look lovely... they look like they will fill you. But they won’t. and the punishment for them all is the same.

No inheritance.

Unless... Jesus.

and that is when we get to the good news. Because where sin increased, grace abounded even more. (Romans 5:20)

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians issues a plea to husbands to love their wives and even relates it to the way that Christ loved the church... and he says, that “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he may sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor...

without spot or wrinkle or any such thing...

that she might be HOLY. That she might be without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

and I think we read that and we sometimes get overwhelmed by it because we don’t fully realize that it says “That HE may sanctify her.”

So that HE might present the church in splendor

Christ IS coming back for a bride that is pure and spotless, without spot or wrinkle... He is coming back for a Holy Church. But he is coming back for a church that he has already made holy... And that is you! He is coming back for a church that HE MADE HOLY with his blood. Our job is simple. Walk in grace. Try to be like Jesus, but don't think for a second that you are anything like him, without him. Its to put the ways of the flesh behind us once and for all, and begin walking in the Spirit... knowing that it is grace that leads people to the cross of Jesus Christ which is the only thing that can bring about true healing in their life.



It is love that shows them Jesus. It is Joy that makes them want to be a part of what we are all about. It takes patience to see someones life as they filter through their flesh sometimes... it is kindness and goodness that shine lights in the darkest places. It is faithfulness that never gives up on a person, and it is self-control that keeps you from the works of the flesh and these are the things that should be the evidence in our lives that we belong to the Jesus.

The problem with the ar'ar tree was it was dry on the inside. There was no juice. There was nothing running through it. It was hallow. It was empty. There. was. no. SPIRIT.

It did not quench the thirsty as they traveled through the desert and came upon it... It built them up, and let them down... exactly like sin does. It was an illusion, exactly like sin is. It told them a lie... Exactly like the flesh does. and it left them thirsty.

But look what Jesus says about the spirit in John 7:37-39:

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “**If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’**” Now this (referring to living waters) he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Jesus, when he speaks of the Spirit, he speaks of it as living water. The first fruit in Jeremiah's analogy, it was missing the Spirit, and it left its patrons empty. The fruit from the diseased tree... it was dry. There was no Spirit. The mighty works done in “Gods name” by the people who in the end will say “Lord, Lord!”??? WHY? Did we not... Did we not...

No Juice.  
No living water.  
No Spirit.

It is all about the Spirit.

And the bible says that “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17)

Maybe the conversation, put in our language, will be more like this:

Did you free people?

Did you reach the people you were condemning?

Are they here in heaven now because of what you said to them? What you said about them? How you passed judgment on them in your mind?

Are they here are now, joining us in eternity, because of the way you responded to their sins... the sins that were listed in the same category, as your sins?

Did you walk in the Spirit? Maybe you prophesied... but did you love? were you patient, were you kind? were you good?

Did you extend the grace that was extended to you?

And what about you?

Did your life change?

What kind of fruit did your life produce?

Were you like the tree planted near the water? Never ceasing to bare fruit?

Or were you the ar’ar tree.

Relying on your own flesh, and in the end becoming a slave to the flesh, just like the one who relies on the law becomes a slave to the law.

To fruitless works and fruitless religion.

But that second tree... The Spirit flowed through the fruit of that tree. and it bore more and more fruit and in fact has never seised to bare fruit.

When Jesus gave us this picture of living water, John followed it up by saying that Jesus is referring to the Spirit which had not come yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

But not long after that, the Spirit was given (Acts 2). And it was poured out onto all men. And there are a multitude of evidences of it, but I can stand before you today boldly, and say that as great and as evident as the gifts of the Spirit are, the true way to tell who the Spirit is living in, is by the fruit of their life.

Is by "The fruit of the Spirit"

Why settle for the works of the flesh,

When we could have Love.

When we could have Joy.

When we could have Peace and Patience.

and Kindness. and Goodness.

Faithfulness. Gentleness.

and Self Control?

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

and in the words of Jesus, you will know them by their fruits.