



STUDY GUIDE

AGAINST THE GRAIN 10.20.2019

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Children of Missionaries and Church Planters

[set up]

Who you are will come out. Who (and what) you are inside will ultimately be displayed in your words and actions. Your character, whether good or bad, will most certainly expose itself to those around you. We can all think of someone (perhaps ourselves) that has tried, but failed, to hide a “rotten” area of their lives, only to have that area fully exposed to those near them through the content of their words and attitudes.

What is it about a “good” man or woman that convinces you that their heart is “genuine and sincere”?

[digging deeper]

Look up and read Luke 6:43-45.

Why do you think Jesus emphasized to His disciples the importance of listening carefully to another person’s words?

What eventually happens to the things (fruit) that are “stored up” in your heart?

How (and why) has Jesus called us be “fruit inspectors” (not judges) as we live and work around others?

What are some of the attitudes and phrases that you hear prevalent in one’s words that can reveal the condition of their hearts?

How does Jesus’ teaching on this parallel the words of the writer of Proverbs (read Proverbs 4:23)?

According to this Proverb, how much of what you do flows from your heart? How might we make sure that what we do and what we say is life giving to others?

Read Mark 7:20-23. According to Jesus, where does this list of man’s sinful actions originate from? Why do you think Jesus felt it important to explain this to His followers?

[living it out]

What's hanging off your branches?

If you were to evaluate the character and tone of your daily speech, what would your spouse/family/close friends say? Would they say it reveals the sweet presence of a close walk with God (good fruit) or something totally different (bad fruit)?

What are some solid steps you can begin to take to ensure that you are storing up the "good things" in your heart?