



## Gifts of Word and Deed

Luke 6:43-45

**A**ctions speak louder than words. You no doubt have heard that before, perhaps for most of your growing up. It is true that our actions are very important. But words are important as well! The power of our speech to encourage or discourage should not be discounted. In the gospel of Luke, in particular, it is the words spoken by the main actors that often gives evidence of the influence of the Holy Spirit. The great poetry (songs) that flow from Elizabeth, Mary, Zachariah, and Simeon early in this gospel is prophetic speech that issues both a word of hope and a caution about judgement.

When Jesus speaks about good fruit coming from good trees and bad fruit from bad trees we know he is really talking about integrity – the integration of the thought and practice into the whole of a person’s life. As the Book of James would remind us, it does little good to tell a hungry person to be well fed and full of encouragement if we don’t also provide food to back up our good intentions. The letter of I John counsels that we can’t say we love God and at the same time hate our sister/brother. They are non-sequitur. It is equivalent to looking for peaches on a sycamore tree. To love God is love the “other.” To care for the poor is give them a hot meal, not just a platitude.

To say we believe in God and that our faith is a priority, but to fail to engage in the praxis of discipleship is missing something. Now we know that despite the inference of Jesus’ words that we are to be good trees and thus always be bearing good fruit, sometimes our fruit is less than perfect. That is why the words and actions are to be blended together – the reminder of the need to do good deeds (words) and the practicing of good deeds (actions), even when we don’t feel like it, leads us to better and more consistent results.

It is a bit like that with generosity. To be generous sometimes means we have to practice it even when we don’t feel like it or when we find it hard, because we have told ourselves that being generous matters and we know that it is evidence of the faith that is in us. Perhaps it is time to inspect the quality of our harvest. Are we consistently bearing good fruit?

## WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361