**Introduction** - In our study in Luke’s gospel we saw the disposition of a true disciple.

- **A magnanimous disposition** (vv. 37-38).
  - Not judgmental
  - They don’t condemn others
  - The are forgiving
  - The are giving

- **A discerning disposition** (vv. 39-42).

  We are not to be judgmental, but we are to be discerning or make judgments. Jesus warned us not to follow false spiritual teachers.

  They are:

  - Blind (v. 39)
  - Earthly (v. 40)
  - Hypocritical (vv. 41-42)

Today in our text Jesus closes his sermon on the plain by calling his disciples to a lifestyle of discerning judgment. Being able to judge is essential for growth in your walk with God. A follower of Christ must exercise moral discernment and make necessary biblical judgments. To teach this point, Jesus first gives us a lesson from horticulture.

**I. The True Disciple Is A Fruit Inspector, vv. 43-45**

- **The Horticultural Axiom** (vv. 43-44)

  - **The Point** (v. 45) Our hearts or inner disposition determines the kind of fruit that comes from our life. Our words and works reveal our hearts! **Illus.** If it’s in the well it will come up in the bucket.

  How do we judge properly?
First we must make a distinction between:
• Making a judgment, and

• Offering a judgment

1. How to make judgments:

• Humbly
• Prayerfully
• Biblically
• Lovingly
• Mercifully

If you do, you will be a reflection of Jesus.

2. How to offer judgment:

• Privately
• Gently and constructively
• Be exemplarily

Is it necessary for Christ followers to make:

• Doctrinal judgments?
• Moral judgments?
• Heart judgments?

II. The True Disciple Builds on the Right Foundation, vv. 46-49

As Jesus closes his sermon, He shows us that not only should we bear healthy fruit, we should also build on the right foundation. Note v. 46, the danger of empty claims. They claim to be a disciple of Christ, “Lord, Lord” so their doctrine is right.

So what’s the problem? “Do not the things which I say” (v. 46).

The big question is “What do we do with Christ’s word?”

The marks of a true disciple:

1. **Coming** (v. 47) “cometh to me”.

2. **Hear** (v. 47) “heareth my sayings”.
Illus.: Many church attenders listen to God’s word the way they listen to a flight attendant explain an aircraft’s safety features.

3. **Doing** (vv. 47-48) “doeth them”.

   - It’s evidence of true salvation. It’s living out the Sermon on the Level.
   - It enables us to stand (v. 48). It’s final judgment.

Sadly, there are false disciples (v. 49).

   - Sadly there are false disciples (v. 49).
   - They hear, but don’t obey or do.

So ask yourself?

**Note:** Only two builders, two houses, two foundations.