

*The wicked and the good are compared to trees.*

## How A Man Is Like A Tree.

P.S. I:3

*Lammie*

There are many subjects announced from the pulpit which make us to wonder what the minister is going to discuss. One subject I heard of was, "Warming your feet by the enemies fire" Another was, "My coat is off how shall I get it back on?" Still another was, "The bed is too short and the cover too narrow." The people were curious to know what the men would say. And if these preachers were like a great many of us preachers today why I guess that the people were just as curious when they got thru.

My subject to day sounds very much like these named, "How a man is like a tree." But as those men hoped out of their subjects to bring some message to help their congregation, and that is always the case, even so I hope that we may study together to day how a man is like a tree and go away helped in our spirits.

The Psalmist used this figure, the great prophet Ezekiel used it, and Jesus took it up and showed where a man and his deeds was like a tree and its fruits.

"And he shall be like a tree." Now how is a man like a tree? All trees are dependant on something out side themselves to give them life. No man is self sufficient. He may feel when all goes well that he is independant of all out side help but just as the tree will wither and die when its feeders are separated from the earth even so will man pass out when he no longer has the food, air, and raiment which God gives him. *we are some thing to every other*

But what kind of a tree are you like? That is the important question. The Psalmist tells us in another place that one man is like a green Bay tree. "He spreadeth himself like a Green Bay tree." This tree is one whose leaves are useless. They fall beneath the tree and are used again by the same tree. It spreads out takes up a big lot of room and is useless.

*Subjects*

*John  
Lammie  
I*

*Exp.  
Christ*

*How is  
like a T?  
dependant*

*How is  
like a T?  
dependant  
green  
Bay.*

*Selfish Man.* This pictures the selfish man. He keeps all his property and never uses it except that it make its returns to him. That kind of a man usually takes up lots of room.

\* And he shall be like a tree planted-- We never plant a tree unless we expect something from that tree. We may not expect fruit from every tree planted but we will expect shade-- we will expect either kind fruit or no fruit to beautify the spot where we place them. Man shall be like a tree planted. Not just any man. but the godly man--the righteous man. He is to bring benefit by bearing fruit-- he is to bring benefit by beautifying the place where he stands.

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water. He stands near the river and his feeders reach the life giving substance. It is a sign of success when a man stays close to God the source of strength. This will be evidenced by his attending the church in a worshipfull spirit and lining up and locating by the great river of life. As he grows his soul reaches deeper and deeper in to God's life.

You look at the throng as it passes by and you will behold those who are living by the river of life. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. That is he brings forth fruit when it is expected. Sharp disappointment comes to us when we look to a person for a certain piece of work--work that is important and then it does not happen. One of the greatest elements that can live in man is to do his duty when it is due to be done. Be on time with your fruits. It is said that Linbergh is always on time.

About all some trees do is to crowd out the undergrowth. Some people are the way willing to smother all others out if only they may rise to a high place in the world. This was not Christ's way. He would ever teach that the strong should help the weak and needy; the super-man theory is an example of the former.

The emphasis of Jesus on trees was on fruit production. The figless tree has come down as

*He spoke of love*

an example of what Jesus thought about trees that do not do what is expected of them. He came to it and found on it nothing but leaves. Well would have been all right if He had expected leaves, but He looked for figs. In fact many trees produce only leaves but in doing that do what they ought to do and thereby beautify the ground. Too many of us however, want to be leaf bearing when we ought to grow fruit. Oh but leaves give a shade for the passerby and he needs it. Yes he does but what is your life worth if only people think of resting when they see you?

Are you the fruitless fig tree, the GREEN Bay tree, or the tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season?

*The tree most blown by the winds usually becomes the strongest.*

*The tree with a diseased heart will break under the wind.*

*nothing but leaves the spirit gone  
O'er years of a transient life  
nothing but leaves no garnered sheaves*

*then we come at last to Jesus who grieves  
Beholding in our hand life's gift to Him  
nothing but leaves.*

