



Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

In winter, the American Plum tree, with its long thorns and leafless limbs, appears far from a fruit bearing tree. But watch the tree for just one summer season and you'll see it produce delicious fruit that reveals its true nature, a good tree with good fruit. The plums pictured on the front of this Visible Verse™ card were photographed in Webster, Minnesota, just days before they ripened. Unfortunately, the birds ate the fruit before people could. This is always true of good fruit, everybody wants it!

What is true of the American Plum tree is true of people. By their fruit you will recognize them. The fruit Jesus refers to is the daily evidence of God's Spirit working in your life as described in Galatians 5:22. Do you leave those around you feeling loved? Do you sense joy welling up in your heart? Are you patient with others? Do you find that kindness comes easy? Goodness? Faithfulness? Gentleness? Are you self controlled? When Jesus compared true Christians to trees that bear good fruit, He was referring to a life that could answer, "yes", to these types of questions. A good life bearing good fruit!

May you be encouraged to live a life that produces good fruit with every fruit tree you see!



Photo: American Plum Tree; Webster, Minnesota

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