

Judging by Fruits Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time Saturday, September 10, 2016
8:15 AM 1 Cor 10:14-22; **Lk 6:43-49** (BVM) (We have to be observant of the fruits of our own life and the life of others; we have to be diligent in building our lives on the firm foundation of Jesus' own wisdom.)

Today's gospel reading has two sections to it. The first one is observations about fruit. Jesus once said, **"By their fruit you shall know them."** This means, although we do not judge people's intentions or their spirit, so to speak, **we do judge the results, the fruit of their lives and works and acts.** As this points out, a good person out of a store of goodness in his heart produces good, and you can see the good. And this is true regardless of people's faith or lack of it. For what we call faith may be just hypocrisy, and what we might think is a lack of faith may be simply something that has never been thought about or expressed, but might be there. **So we judge the fruit, not the intentions, not the spirit.** We cannot see into the mind of another person, but we can see the results of a person's life. The point is we need to **judge good fruit as good and bad fruit as bad.** And this is especially true of **religious groups. We are supposed to discern goodness everywhere it is, but also the lack of goodness.**

This leads to the second part because as we grow and as we live, we are building something of our lives. **We are building a life.** We do not come into the world with a ready-built life; we do the building. Children are beloved of God, but children are incomplete. As we move into adulthood we have this responsibility to build something. And **if we listen to Christ and follow him, it's like building a house on a firm foundation.** The storms of life will not prevail over it. But there are many people who believe that they have faith and say they have faith, but who don't listen to Jesus, to his teachings. They do not build a life on them. Their beliefs are just ideas in their minds; they don't do anything; they sit there. When it comes to what they do with

their lives, it has **nothing do with Christ or what he taught. They are building a house without a foundation, and the storms of life will prevail.**

So we are incomplete. **It is up to us to complete ourselves.** As far as goodness goes **our goodness really comes from God**, and God's goodness is infinite, and **we have therefore an infinite store of goodness to rely upon.** Those who have no goodness have no goodness because they have no God; they push God away, which we are free to do.

That leads to **two final conclusions.** First of all **we have to be observant of the fruits of our own life and the life of others.** Secondly, **we have to be diligent in building our lives on the firm foundation of Jesus' own wisdom.**