

The Root

Fruit or Root?

Transformation is a part of life. And Lent is all about allowing God to make us into the kind of people He has created and called us to be. And yet, many of us spend time focusing on the “fruits” of change rather than being attentive to the root. We can change cosmetically, but lasting change has to be substantial. This change has to reach the root. It has to be connected to our identity. And it has to flow from our relationship with our Father.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you like reality TV programs? Which ones? What do you like about them? (If you don't like reality TV programs, why don't you like about them?)
 2. Father Mike mentioned the mission trip where they only trimmed the tops off weeds. Have you ever been in a situation where you were only attentive to the cosmetic changes and (on purpose or accidentally) ignored the substantial change?
 3. The roots sins of Pride, Vanity, and Sensuality were discussed. Did those particular “roots” surprise you? In reflecting on them, are there any that are more compelling to you? Feel free to discuss.
 4. Jesus stated that every grain of wheat has to die to become what it was made to be. This is an identity change. Who or what has the most influence in giving you an identity?
 5. Have you ever considered changing the words “I can't” to “I don't”? Do you think that that would make a difference to you? Please share.
 6. Identity flows from relationship. What is one way that your relationship with God has changed an action you have taken in the last week? Please share.
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God in Real Life

Words matter. This week, when speaking about actions that flow from your identity, choose to use terms like “I don't” or “I do” when talking about them.

To the Heart

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” John 12:24