

Our Heart's Not in It -- Judah fakes it

There is more to conservation and stewardship of the earth than recycling and responsible consumerism. The land we live on is affected by our _____ and by our _____.

Adam's choices affected all of creation, not just man. Through him, the ground itself was _____. But when Christ comes, all of creation will be _____.

The Lord has never cared so much what we _____. Instead, He looks at the _____ in our lives, because that comes from what is in our hearts. If the love of the Lord is in our hearts, then we will see the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

This week: Look at your life and name the fruit you find in it, both good and bad. Reflect on what that tells you about the state of your heart.

What if you see a lot of bad fruit? Or less good fruit than should be there? What can you do about it? It can be very overwhelming and you can feel powerless to remove the bad fruit or to change the attitudes it is growing from.

It starts with a commitment to the _____ and to the _____ who can change our hearts.

God does not throw you away or condemn you because you have bad fruit. Instead, He gives you the _____ and _____ to make a change.

Dig around your heart and fertilize it.

- Pay attention to what you are _____ your soul.
- Be _____ about weeding out the bad and sowing the good.
- Consider what you are _____, _____ and _____.
- Consider _____ you hang out with.
- Consider how you invest your _____.

(See Handout)

Why is Israel better in the Lord's sight than Judah? Because Israel was _____ about her apostasy (falling away). Judah only _____ to love the Lord.

Israel will not return to the Lord until _____.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell us a few Jews are allowed to return from captivity and they rebuild the _____, but the _____ is lost forever.

The rest of the story is told by the prophet _____ who began his ministry near the end of Jeremiah's life.

Ezekiel has a series of visions in which the Lord takes him on a tour of the Temple and in each Temple area he sees the elders, the men and even the women of Judah worshipping _____ within the

Temple precincts. The Glory of the Lord lifts from the Holy of Holies and _____ the Temple.

Eventually, Ezekiel sees a vision of a _____. And although there is a Holy of Holies, there is still no _____. Ezekiel makes it clear that this Temple will exist in the _____. He describes the Temple, the priests and the Temple sacrifices in great detail.

In Ezek 47, Ezekiel sees a river of water flowing down from under the threshold on the south side of the _____. Along the banks of the great river are fruit trees of all kinds. Their leaves _____ and they bear fruit every _____. And their leaves are used for _____.

That sounds just like the passage in Revelation that describes the _____ Jerusalem in the _____ Heaven and the _____ Earth. But it says the river is flowing from the _____, not the Temple, for according to Rev 21:22, there is no Temple in the New Jerusalem because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple.

So the Temple and the river of life that Ezekiel sees can only exist in the _____ while Christ reigns on earth for 1000 years.