Introduction:

- The new year is a good time for restarts!
  - May all your troubles last as long as your New Year’s resolutions.
- God is the God of restarts.
- In order to get that restart we need to really want it. We need to want to do life God’s way.
- The Sermon on the Mount is a good restarter because it is the mark of a true disciple of Christ.

Lesson:

I. Each Tree Is Known by Its Fruit. (Lk. 6:43-45)

- Question: What does it take to grow a good fruit tree with good fruit? Joint Heirs’ responses:
  - A good gardener
  - Good soil for root development
  - Water regularly
  - Good fertilizer
  - Pruning to help the tree develop healthy fruit.
  - Buy land that used to be a pig ranch and you can grow anything.
  - It depends on the time of year and what fruit tree you want to grow.
  - Protection from frost, wind, and storm.
  - It needs to be harvested so you get a good crop the next year.
  - The fruit needs to be shared with others.
  - Sunlight is necessary.
  - Need good stock to be grafted into the stock root to get good fruit.
  - Bees are needed for pollination.
  - You plant and you water, but God gives the increase.

All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version (2011) unless otherwise indicated. Pronouns referring to God are capitalized.
A. A good tree doesn’t bear bad fruit. (Lk. 6:43)

Your life’s products (i.e., the words you speak, the actions you take, and the deeds you do) will reveal if you are a good tree. People produce fruit in keeping with their nature. When people are around you, are they refreshed? Do you bring a fragrance to those around you? The fragrance of the orange blossom precedes the arrival of the fruit.

- Do you provide nourishment and refreshment to others? This is what a good fruit tree will do.

- Is that a mark of your life? What kind of fruit are you producing? What kind of influence do you have on others around you?

B. A bad tree won’t produce good fruit. (Lk. 6:43)

C. Be a fruit inspector. (Lk. 6:44)

- Figs and grapes were staples in that day. Thorn bushes and briars do not bear figs and grapes but only bring pain and suffering.

- 2 Co. 5:14-16 Are we a sweet aroma unto the Lord?

**Application:**

① We are all fruit trees. The question is, what kind of fruit tree are you?