

A Tale of Two Cities

Matthew 7:15-23

“Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit” (*Matt. 7:17*). This principle of a tree bringing forth fruit after its kind, whether corrupt or good, is illustrated in the founding of America.



People came to our country for different reasons. Some came to our shores for noble reasons and paid a great price in order to gain liberty. Others came to the New World for selfish reasons, to enrich themselves.

As Alexis de Tocqueville (1835) wrote, “two principal offshoots that, up to the present, have grown without being entirely confused—one in the South, the other in the North.” In the South, before the Pilgrims ever landed, a group of traders and merchants founded the colony of Jamestown, Virginia (1607). Their motivation was to earn profits by trading and selling goods. For the most part, they were not guided by Biblical principles. They did not live peaceably with the native tribes. Slavery was practiced by this colony and was protected by their laws.

In 1620 the Pilgrims landed in what became known as Massachusetts. Their great desire was to have religious freedom, and the Bible was honored. Overall they related well to the native tribes, negotiated a long-lasting peace treaty with them, and wanted to reach them with the gospel of Christ.

Thus there were two trees: the Tree of Liberty (Plymouth) and the Tree of Slavery (Jamestown). The fruit of one tree was greed and lust; the fruit of the other tree was liberty, equal rights and justice for all.

What fruit is manifested in our lives as believers?

The fruit reveals the true character of the root.

“By their fruits ye shall know them”

(*Matt. 7:20*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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