

“Words Matter”

Matthew 12:33-37

Scripture reading: Matthew 12:33-37 “Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.³⁴ O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.³⁷ For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

Message Title: “Words Matter”

1. The Illustration (vs 33)
2. The Condemnation (vs 34a)

Acts 28:3-6 “And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.⁴ And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.⁵ And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.⁶ Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.”

Matthew 23:15 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.”

Psalms 51:5 “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Ephesians 2:1-2 “And you hath he quickened, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins;² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:”

3. The Teaching (vs 34b-35)

Matthew 15:18-20a “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:²⁰ These are *the things* which defile a man:...”

James 1:26 “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.”

James 3:8-12 “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.¹¹ Doth a

fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? ¹² Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”

Romans 3:13-18 “Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways: ¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

James 3:10-12 “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. ¹¹ Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? ¹² Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.”

4. The **Penalty** (vs 36-37)

Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Luke 19:11-27 “And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. ¹² He said therefore, **A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.** ¹³ **And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.** ¹⁴ **But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.** ¹⁵ **And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.** ¹⁶ **Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.** ¹⁷ **And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.** ¹⁸ **And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.** ¹⁹ **And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.** ²⁰ **And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:** ²¹ **For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.** ²² **And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:** ²³ **Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?** ²⁴ **And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.** ²⁵ **(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)** ²⁶ **For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.** ²⁷ **But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.”**

5. The **Application**

- a. Do we speak words of a **purifying** influence?

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

Ephesians 4:29-31 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”

b. Do we speak words of **life**?

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”