
SERMON NOTES May 14,2023

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

Matthew 12:33-37
What Our Words Say
Pastor Mike

- I. The natural relationship of a _____ and _____
- a. Religion focuses on _____ and _____
- b. Jesus focuses on _____ and our _____
- c. The _____ of a bad tree
- II. Understanding the _____ of our words
- a. Our words _____ and thus _____ our heart
- b. Our _____ best reveal the truth
- III. Our need for _____

Our only solution is a _____

- IV. Learning to harvest _____

The harvest of words of _____

Closing questions

What does the _____ reveal about the _____

How will you ask God to _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Often when we sin in our speech, we use the common excuse that an event or another person caused us to say things that we didn't mean. But in Matthew 12 Jesus teaches that our words always come from our heart. Jesus teaches, *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*
 - a. Do our words always come from our heart? Do our words always reveal the true nature of our heart? Are there ever exceptions? Do we ever say things that aren't an expression of who we really are?
 - b. If our words do come from our hearts and thus reveal our hearts, what do your words spoken in anger and/or frustration reveal about your heart?
2. Jesus teaches that the true nature of our heart is always revealed by our words. If we have bad fruit (words), the fruit comes from a bad tree (our heart). Bad fruit can't come from a good tree. Do negative, critical, and/or pessimistic words always reveal that we have a negative and critical heart? Explain your answer.
3. We often find ways to disguise critical and negative speech, possibly even hiding our negative spirit from ourselves. Methods for disguising critical speech can be as diverse as using humor or sarcasm or gossiping by sharing our 'concerns' and prayer requests about people.
 - a. In your experience, what are the most common methods people use to disguise negative and critical speech?
 - b. Which methods are you most likely to use? It is possible that you may even be hiding such speech from yourself? How would you know if you were?
4. We like to think that while most of our speech is good, the 5% of time when we say things we may regret, it's because some event or the result of someone else doing something to upset us. Then we argue that our words don't reflect who we really are. But Jesus teaching in Matthew 12:36 tells us that it's these careless words that most clearly reveals the true nature of our heart.
 - a. What's your initial reaction to this idea? Do our careless words always accurately reveal who we really are? Are there any exceptions to this rule? Why or why not?
 - b. In Matthew 12:36 Jesus teaches that we will be held accountable for every careless word? Where are you careless in your speech?
5. If you struggle with negative and/or hurtful speech, how do you change? If the problem isn't just self-discipline, but our heart, how do we gain victory over this important area of life?
6. The words of a Christ-follower should ultimately impart grace to all who hear us. What does it mean to impart grace through our words? How will you use your words to impart grace to others this next week?