"YOUR WORDS ARE A MIRROR OF YOUR HEART"

Matthew 12:34-37
1/21/2018

INTRODUCTION:

***Examine your words to evaluate your heart.**

Five reasons why you should evaluate your words:

I. Your Words Expose Your True <u>NATURE</u> (v. 34a)

II. Your Words Expose What is Deep Down in Your <u>HEART</u> (v. 34b)

III. Your Words Expose Your True <u>CHARACTER</u> (whether good or bad) (v. 35)

IV. Your Words Will be Exposed in the <u>JUDGMENT</u> (v. 36)

V. Your Words Will Expose Your <u>CONDITION</u> and <u>ETERNAL DESTINY</u> (v. 37)

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V. Your Words Will Expose Your _____ and _____ _____ (v. 37)

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In the context, the Pharisees have used their tongues to blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

Definition of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit:

In the context of Christ's day: The Pharisees said that the Holy Spirit's work in Christ was done by as demonic spirit (Satan) (SEE: Mark 3:30)

In our day, what is the unpardonable sin? "The willful, continued denial of the testimony of the Holy Spirit concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ."

Such blasphemy revealed the condition of their heart and the destiny of their souls.

In the process of exposing the sin of the Pharisees, Jesus exposes the root of every person's problem: their heart.

***Examine your words to evaluate your heart.**

Five reasons why you should evaluate your words:

I. Your Words Expose Your True NATURE (v. 34a)

Christ can speak so strongly because He is God. His evaluation and judgment of the Pharisees was just.

No one could ever accuse Jesus of being weak, quiet, and unassuming.

Jesus did not shy away from exposing error and confronting sin.

Fear of "offending" should not keep believers from exposing evil.

"When in the name of love and humility, we fail to expose religions, cults, and philosophies that give men false spiritual hope or we fail to challenge those who promote irreverence and moral filth, we serve neither love nor humility, but sin." (MacArthur, p. 317).

"Generation of vipers" - offspring of snakes; brood of vipers. Jesus boldly calls the Pharisees the product of snakes (cp. Mt. 3:7; 23:33).

In this figure of speech, Jesus in effect is calling them cursed children of evil and deception. The venom of their unbelieving ancestors has flowed into their lives.

The reference to snakes would identify these religious hypocrites with Satan the "Serpent."

Just as the poisonous venom of vipers is dangerous, deceptive and deadly, so the evil false accusations made by the Pharisees toward Jesus was a poison to those who would be bitten by these false teachers. "When someone reached into the woodpile of religion, thinking to pick up a stick of truth, he could be bitten to death by those soul-damning liars" (MacArthur, p. 318).

"Being evil" - This speaks of their evil nature (which we all possess) (same phrase is in Matt. 7:11 - *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*) (cp. Lk. 11:13)

People do what they do because of what they <u>are</u>. People say what they say because it is their nature to say such.

- Fish swim because it is their nature to do so.
- Monkeys climb because it is their nature to do so.
- Birds fly because it is their nature to do so.
- Lions roar because it is their nature to do so.
- Mosquitoes sting because it is their nature to do so.

- People sin because it is their nature to do so.

We all from conception (Ps. 51:5) inherited a sin nature from our father Adam (Ro. 5:12) (Ps. 58:3 - *"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."*)

Just as it is impossible for a thorn bush to produce grapes (Mt. 7:16; Ja. 3:12), so it is impossible for an evil person to consistently speak good.

"It is by our conversation at <u>unguarded</u> moments that we reveal our true character" (Wiersbe, p. 43).

II. Your Words Expose What is Deep Down in Your <u>HEART</u> (v. 34b)

"The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart"

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it" (Jer 17:9)

The connection between the mouth and the heart is not some new teaching that began with Christ in the New Testament. Psalm 19:14 says: *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."*

Solomon said that all matters of human life flow out of the heart (Prov. 4:23 - *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*)

"Out of the abundance of the heart" - lit. out of the overflow of the heart. That which fills the heart is sure to spill out of the drain of the mouth.

Everyone's heart has an abundance of something. People generally talk about that which they spend the most time thinking about.

The heart fills up with a certain thing (whether good or bad) and the mouth vents that which preoccupies the heart.

--What a person talks about reveals what he thinks about -- and what he thinks about reveals where his heart is.

The mouth is a spokesman for the heart. The mouth simply verbalizes the heart.

The putrefied scum that flows out of people's lips comes from the cesspool of their heart.

The contents of a defiled and dirty heart bubble out of the sewer of the mouth (SEE: Mt. 15:18-19).

SEE: MacArthur, p. 319

III. Your Words Expose Your True <u>CHARACTER</u> (whether good or bad) (v. 35)

This verse is an illustration of the statement Jesus made in v. 34.

His point is this: The good thoughts and motives which are collected, fathered, or stored up in the heart of a good man will produce good words; whereas the evil thoughts and motives which are stored up in the heart of an evil man will spill out evil words.

Many times people may give a false impression of what they think of you. However, when "their pump is primed" their words reveal what was really in their heart all the time.

"Treasure" - Greek *thesauros* means treasury or storehouse; and is the term from which we get the English Thesaurus, a treasury of words.

A person's heart is the treasury of his thoughts, ambitions, desires, loves, attitudes, and loyalties. It is the reservoir from which the mouth draws its expressions. (MacArthur, p. 319)

"A good man" - a good man is good not because he was born that way but because he was born again to become that way. The imputed and imparted righteousness of God is desperately needed by all since the Bible states, *"there is none good, but one, that is God*" (Mt. 19:17). *"There is none righteous"* (Rom. 3:10). *"For all have sinned"* (Ro. 3:23). *"There is not a just man upon earth"* (Ecc. 7:20).

How do you measure the heart of someone or your own heart? By how they (you) speak.

The barometer of the heart is read by the words of your lips. The content of the heat is clearly manifested by what you say and how you say it.

How does your tongue measure up? What kind of words do you speak at home, work, etc.?

"What we do is due to our heart."

IV. Your Words Will be Exposed in the JUDGMENT (v. 36)

"Idle" - when a car idles, it does nothing but waste gas.

This word "idle" (*argos)* refers to speech that is worthless, ineffective, unproductive and unfruitful. It is speech that does nothing -- that is nothing of any value (As God measures the value of our words).

What words would be considered "idle"?

1) Lying words (falsehood)
2) Hypocritical words (flattery)
3) Immoral words (vulgarity)
4) Cutting words (harsh, cruel, mean talk and gossip)
5) Careless words (vanity, foolish, verbosity)

The fact that we will give account for our words tells me this:

1) God hears every word we speak (Ps. 139:4 - *"For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, oh Lord, thou knowest it altogether."*)

2) God records every word we speak

3) My words are important to God

   Many justify lies, rage, gossip, foolish jesting, coarse speech, etc. on the grounds that talk is not important (after all, it does not physically injure someone)

4) I will answer to God for the content of what I say

God's inerasable records have a preserved listing of every word you have ever said.

"In the day of judgment" -There is a day when you will stand before God (Heb. 9:27).

--For the believer, it will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Cor. 3; II Cor. 5)

--For the unbeliever it will be at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)

God expects us to: *"speak the truth in love"* (Eph. 4:15) --
"speak" = a method of our communication
"the truth" = the content of our communication
"in love" = the manner of our communication

We must never blow up with our tongue (Eph. 4:26-31), but must always build up with our tongue (Eph. 4:29; cp. Col. 4:6).

WARNING: Evil speech does two things:

--It opens the door for Satan (Eph. 4:27)

--It grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30)

If our speech is not constructive, we should not speak it. Before you say anything ask yourself these questions:

- Is what I'm about to say true?
- Is what I'm about to say necessary?
- Is what I'm about to say designed to help?
- Are my emotions under control?
- Is now the right time to say it?
- Will God be glorified by what I say?

V. Your Words Will Expose Your CONDITION and ETERNAL DESTINY (v. 37)

This judgment will be:

1. Personal - *"thy"*

2. Unavoidable - *"shall"*

3. Indisputable - *"words. . . justified. . . condemned"*

Based on what you said in this life

Since your words are an accurate gauge of your heart, you will be judged based on your words.

"Justified" - to be proven righteous; to be shown to be right; to be evidenced to be just.

NOTE: Our "words," like our "works" (cp. Ja. 2:21-25), do not make us righteous; but they manifest whether or not we are.

Faith alone justifies (Ro. 4-5), but faith that justifies is never alone (Ja. 2).

The content and virtue of your words will either defend you (validate your faith) or defeat you (reveal your unbelief).

"Condemned" (*kata + dikazo)* = to be proven unrighteous (note the contrast with "justified" *dikaioo*); to be shown to be worthy of judgment.

"Thine own mouth condemneth thee. . . yea, thine own lips testify against thee" (Job 15:6).

An unbridled tongue reveals a vain religion (Ja. 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"*).

In the context, one's words about Christ will be the words that will either justify or condemn that person.

The Pharisees' accusation that Christ was empowered by Satan (v. 24) will be the words that condemn them when they bow before Him one day and are compelled to confess Him as Lord (Phil. 2:11).

If you have confessed Christ as your Lord and Savior, your testimony will bear evidence to your salvation

Mt. 10:32 - *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."*

Rom. 10:9 - *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

I Cor. 12:3 - *"No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost"*

If you have not confessed Christ as your Lord and Savior, but rather have used His name in vain, spoken against Him, denied Him, etc., your own testimony will be sufficient testimony to condemn you.

CONCLUSION:

You can gain a good understanding of your spiritual condition by listening to your own words.

(By no means is anyone's mouth impeccable, but their customary speech should be true, sincere, moral, kind, thoughtful, and loving)

What we need is not
"reformation" (reforming behavior, changing the outside)

But "transformation" (renewing the spirit, being recreated on the inside)

True salvation produces good words and works.

Do your words bear evidence to your salvation?

Is the answer to "clean up my mouth"? NO!

The answer is to clean up my heart!

If the source of the problem is not dealt with, you may cover up the symptoms all you want, but what is needed is a radical change on the inside, and then the outside will mend itself.

What is needed?

A "new heart" - Ezek. 36:26 - *"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."*

A "clean heart" - Ps. 51:10 - *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."*