

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 1, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 74. Words, Words, Words – Matthew 12:33-37

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Introduction: Addressing the Pharisees after their blaspheming of the Holy Spirit and their refusal to believe Jesus, He reveals the truth about who and what they are. Their words reveal their heart – their true self in the inner man. Matthew here includes a warning from Jesus for all of us. As Spurgeon put it, “Our works may be judged by our words.” We will all give an account for every word at the Day of Judgment.

- I. Good and Bad Fruit – vs. 33
 - A. Good or Bad? – Isaiah 5:20
 - B. Blaspheming the Spirit
 1. Attributing the works of Christ to Satan
 2. If Jesus was working by the power of evil, His works would be evil – John 10:10
 - C. Good Tree, Bad Fruit?
 1. Does a good tree sometimes produce a bad fruit?
 2. What is the condition of the fruit overall?
 3. Practicing Righteousness, or Sin – 1 John 2:29; 3:7-10; 5:18
- II. Heart to Mouth – vs. 34-35
 - A. Brood of Vipers – baby serpents – John 8:44
 1. The Father of Lies
 2. A Murderer from the Beginning – Satan’s lies in the Garden led to the death of Adam & Eve (and all humanity) – Gen. 3:4
 - B. Heart – the Inner Man (your true character)
 - C. The Tongue is Governed by the Heart, not the Head (vs. 34) – James 3:1-12
 - D. “That which is in the well comes up in the bucket.” – CH Spurgeon (vs. 35) – Matt. 15:18-20
 1. A good man or an evil man
 2. The treasures of the heart match the character of the man
- III. Idle Words – vs. 36
 - A. Profane and Idle Babblings – 1 Tim. 1:5-7; 2 Tim. 2:16
 1. Illogical: spoken without understanding or with contradictions
 2. Ignorance: falsely called knowledge
 3. Increasing ungodliness or for dishonest gain – unproductive – Titus 1:10-11
 - B. Careless Words
 1. Words reveal the heart
 2. Carelessness includes apathy, complacency, or flippancy
 3. How can you love God with all your heart and speak carelessly? – Matt. 22:37
 4. “Even careless words are sufficient to condemn you” – James Boice (see quote #1)
 5. “I didn’t really mean it.” – Matt. 5:37
- IV. Judgment – vs. 27 – 1 John 3:20-21
 - A. Justified or Condemned?
 1. Your words prove your condition
 2. “Our works may be judged by our words.” – CH Spurgeon

Quote #1 - “A careless word would be the least offensive act you have committed. If a single careless word is sufficient to condemn you at God’s judgment, how much more the other very evil vils you have done?” – James Boice

Cross References

Isaiah 5:20

20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

John 10:10

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 John 2:29

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 3:7-10

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. 10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

1 John 5:18

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

John 8:44

44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Genesis 3:4

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

James 3:1-12

3 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring send forth fresh

water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Matthew 15:18-20

18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a 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, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

1 Timothy 1:5-7

5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

2 Timothy 2:16

16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

Titus 1:10-11

10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Matthew 22:37

37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

Matthew 5:37

37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

1 John 3:20-21

20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.