

An Evil and Adulterous Generation

Sermon 40 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 12:33-45

I. Good Fruit and Bad Fruit 12:33-37

A. The Context is the Unpardonable Sin

B. The “Fruit” are Words v. 33-34

C. We Speak out of the “Treasure” of the Heart. v. 35

Hendricksen “The judgment passed upon the individual on the final day (see v. 36) is going to be ‘by’, in the sense of ‘in conformity with or ‘in harmony with’ his words as considered mirrors of the heart. These words will reveal whether he was a professed believer, whether his faith was genuine or faked...whether or not he was and is a child of God.”

Matthew Henry – on “idle words”

1. We shall give an account for even our frivolous words.
2. God takes notice of our every word – even if we don’t.
3. God is displeased with idle words.
4. In a multitude of words – there will generally be sin.
5. We must shortly give an account for our words.
6. We should repent of every idle word.
7. The judgment is strict (see v. 37)

Thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses us from all sin!

II. This Generation v. 39, 41, 42, 45

This Generation. The ones to whom Jesus is preaching!

Luke 11:29-32 -- And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “**This** is an evil **generation**. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to **this generation**. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of **this generation** and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with **this generation** and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here.

Luke 11:50-51 -- that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of **this generation**, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of **this generation**.

Luke 17:25 -- But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by **this generation**.

Luke 21:32 -- I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all things take place.

Acts 2:40 -- And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from **this** perverse **generation**.”

III. The Two Signs 38-42

A. An Ignorant or even Wicked Request.

While the OT prophecies and signs were being fulfilled on a daily – they ask for a sign.

B. The Sign of the Prophet Jonah 39-41

1. Jonah’s message was only condemnation “Yet 40 days and Ninevah will be overthrown”. Only a proclamation of judgment. Yet – the Ninevites did repent. Christ ministered daily – giving gospel entreaties over and over – yet so few were willing to repent and believe the gospel.
2. Jonah was a stranger to the Ninevites. Christ was among his own people.
3. Jonah was just a man – subject to like passions as we are – but Jesus was the perfect man -- the spotless lamb of God.
4. Jonah did not do any miracles –but Christ came with signs and wonders all the while preaching the wonders of the eternal spiritual kingdom which he was coming to bring.
5. Christ’s resurrection was the sign they would receive, yet some of the leaders saw the sign, knew the sign, and spread a lie regarding the resurrection.

C. The Sign of the Queen of Sheba 1 Kings 10:1-11

1. She came with hard questions, but he answered them all v. 2b-3
2. Like Solomon – Jesus is greater than we can even imagine – v. 6
3. The blessing she gave to Solomon v. 9

“Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

If it was true for Solomon, how much more is it true for Christ?

Final Observations on Christ’s Warning to that Generation