

Matthew 12:34-36 The Mouth Revealing the Heart

Introduction: In our text Jesus resorts to name calling. He called the Pharisees “a generation of vipers.” John the Baptist had done the same thing, Matthew 3:7. Jesus also raised a question: “How can ye, being evil, speak good things?” Here Jesus shows that there is a close connection between what a man says and what he is. The Pharisees had severely criticized Jesus because they themselves were evil.

I. The connection between the mouth and the heart, Verses 34-35.

- A. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, verse 34.
 - 1. The heart is the motivating force causing the mouth to say what it does.
 - 2. Therefore the mouth reveals what is in the heart.
 - 3. The mouth is like a gauge on a tank revealing what is on the inside.
 - 4. It tattles on the heart. (A man tattles on himself.)
- B. A good man with a good heart speaks good things.
 - 1. Jesus does not say that a man becomes good by saying good things; rather a man who already has a good heart speaks good things.
 - 2. A man does not get saved by righteous speech, but a man develops righteous speech because he is already saved.
 - 3. He must get the good heart by being born again.
- C. Likewise an evil man with an evil heart speaks evil.
 - 1. He does not become evil because he speaks evil, but he speaks evil because he is already evil.
 - 2. That is why the Pharisees falsely accused Jesus.
- D. Just like the nature of the tree is revealed by the fruit, the nature of one's speech reveals his heart.

II. Some things that a man's speech reveals.

- A. It will reveal whether or not he has trusted Christ.
 - 1. It is a natural thing for one who has trusted Jesus to want to confess it publicly.
 - 2. One may be saved and for a little while not say anything about it, but it is only natural for it to come out.
- B. It will reveal a love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. If a love for Jesus is in the heart the mouth will express it.
 - 2. He will praise the Lord.
 - 3. If he has been habituated to profanity or foul speech, he will seek to clean up his speech.
 - 4. He will testify of Jesus to others.
 - 5. He will confess his sins to the Lord.
- C. When a man speaks out for righteous causes it reveals the righteousness that is in his heart.
- D. On the other hand a boastful tongue reveals a self-righteous heart. (Sinful heart.)
- E. The tongue that speaks with lies and deceit reveals the evil that is in the heart.
- F. One that speaks out in opposition to truth reveals an evil heart that hates truth.
 - 1. Keep in mind that even a saved person can be mistaken in a few things, but not in all.
 - 2. One totally opposed to doctrinal truth is totally opposed to God.

III. A special warning about one's speech, Verse 36.

- A. Man will give account for every idle word in judgment.
 - 1. Man does not consider much of what he says as important.
 - 2. But every casual word is important to God.

- B. This is certainly a warning to the unsaved who brazenly speaks many things offensive to God.
 - 1. Like the Pharisees who defied Jesus and spoke so critically of Him.
 - 2. This warning to the unsaved is not just to correct the manner of speech, but to get the heart changed, from which the speech comes.
- C. It is also a warning to the saved, (the disciples).
 - 1. His heart may be right and most of his speech right, but the idle words might stand a change.
 - 2. He, too, will answer to God for every word.

Conclusion:

- 1. Someone here is unsaved and needs to be born again. You need the heart changed on the inside.
- 2. Some saved person here perhaps needs to clean up your speech.
- 3. Some saved person here loves the Lord who wants to please the Lord in word and deed stands in need of a church home.

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