

PP Heart Talk

Part 2-Matthew 12:33-37

1/18-19/2020

You have likely heard athletes, celebrities and politicians get caught saying something offensive or immoral, only to defend themselves by denying that they are really like that
Celebrity Jonah Hill, after speaking a slur against homosexuals, said, *"This is a heartbreaking situation for me...in that moment I said a disgusting word that does not at all reflect how I feel about any group of people,"*

How about when you and I say things we later regret...did those reflect us or not?

The answer to that question is seen in our passage today and I'd invite you to open your bibles to **Matthew 12**, page 817 in the pew bibles

Conflict is heating up between the Pharisees, Pastors of the Jewish people, and Jesus

This latest conflict began back at **12:1** as Jesus and His disciples were walking on the Sabbath, plucking grain to eat from the edges of the grain fields, something allowed by law

You pluck the tassel, rub it between your palms until the kernel separates from the chaff, and eat

And the Pharisees accused them of breaking the Sabbath Law to do no work on that day

It is the same day, Saturday Sabbath Day, that Jesus goes into the synagogue for prayer and the reading of God's Word, and there was a crippled man there (**12:10**)

The Pharisees tested him by asking if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath and Jesus answered them and then healed the man

12:14 tells us the Pharisees *'went out and conspired against Him, how to destroy Him.'*

The conflict grew in **12:22**, when a demon-oppressed man, made blind and mute by demonic power, was brought to Jesus and Jesus healed him

"And all the people were amazed, and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" **Matthew 12:23**
Is Jesus the long-awaited Messiah?

Terrified they were losing control of the people, the Pharisees' PR team began their spin, a clumsy one at that, claiming Jesus cast out demons by the power of **'Beelzebul'**-Satan
Jesus demolished their accusation in 5 steps:

1-It doesn't make sense for Satan to divide his own kingdom by casting out his own demons

2-Your disciples are casting out demons too, does that mean they do so by Satanic power?

3-Since the obvious answer to the first two is 'No', the only other rationale is that I am doing these things by the Spirit of God

4-This is proof that the kingdom of God has come because I am subduing the strong man, Satan

5-The presence of the Spirit of God on Me is proof that I am the king of God's kingdom, and you are either with Me or against Me, there is no middle ground

But then He gave a terrifying warning to the Pharisees in the hearing of all the people in **12:31** God will forgive a repentant person who blasphemes or intentionally speaks evil against Him But anyone who sees clear evidence of the Spirit's power and rejects it as the work of Satan will

“not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.” Matthew 12:32

Let me read what one commentary said of this sin: **PP** *“Blasphemy against the Spirit is the sober, clear-minded, deliberate rejection of Jesus—as a very agent of evil—despite full knowledge of his work and in the face of the Spirit’s full testimony to him. This blasphemer has heard the gospel proclaimed with clarity and power. Yet he hates Jesus and Christianity and views it as wickedness and deceit. He hears, understands, and despises.”* REC-Matthew

I have had people who are convinced they have committed this sin, but their fearful concern shows they have not, for if they had they would not care about the state of their soul

The one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit has passed the point of no return, fully self-deceived and committed to oppose Christ and influence anyone they can

The Spirit of God Who draw men and women to Christ will not draw that person, they are beyond hope and will not be saved

Jesus turns from teaching, to now preaching, and His brief sermon is on the subject of heart talk

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.” Matthew 12:33

PP The word ‘*make*’ in Greek or English can be used in the literal sense of *making a meal*, or figuratively, like *make up your mind about something*

Jesus used it in that latter sense...*Pharisees, make up your mind about Me!*

Look at my works, and make up your mind for ***“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.” Matthew 12:30***

And as you do, remember that a tree is always known by its fruit

You don’t get good fruit from a diseased tree, or bad fruit from a good one

The condition of the heart determines the type or words, and type of actions

And Jesus clearly says that we either have a good heart or an evil heart...two categories

Bit look at **12:34** and listen to some strong words He said: ***“You brood of vipers! How can you speak good when you are evil?” 12:34***

He is addressing the Pharisees, and you’ll see why He said this in a moment

But first, let me ask, have you ever loved someone who was sick and would not go to the doctor and get looked at?

You plead, perhaps scare them, even threaten to call the doctor yourself, but they will not go

Jesus is doing this with the Pharisees whose hearts are hardened

‘brood of vipers’ is an echo all the way back to the beginning where God said to Satan in the

form of a serpent, **PP** ***"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."***

Genesis 3:15

It seems that in calling them a ***'brood of vipers'***, Jesus is graciously warning that they are giving evidence they are the offspring of the devil

And here is the evidence: ***"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*** **12:34b**

PP The Greek word translated ***'abundance'*** means more accurately, *a superabundance*

It is as if a pressure builds up in our hearts demanding release, and the mouth is the valve, the faucet that gets opened and what is in the heart gushes out

There was a 2007 study by Dr. Matthias Mehl published in the scientific journal Science researching the speech habits of 396 people, 210 women and 186 men

Their findings were that women speak an average of 16,215 words per day, men 15,669 per day Not much of a difference and for either gender, and that is a great many words

We can see this ***'abundance of the heart'*** in the book of Job as friend after friend talks to Job until they all seem to run out of things to say, all but the youngest who hadn't yet spoken

PP ***"Should I continue to wait, now that you are silent? Must I also remain silent? No, I will say my piece. I will speak my mind. For I am full of pent-up words, and the spirit within me urges me on. I am like a cask of wine without a vent, like a new wineskin ready to burst! I must speak to find relief, so let me give my answers."*** **Job 32:17-20**

I bet you have had a time when you were chomping at the bit to speak, impatiently waiting for the other person to stop talking, maybe even interrupting

You get a word in edgewise, trying to fit them in between a talkative person's pause for breath

When we communicate-with both written and spoken words-we have opened the faucet and our hearts are gushing out

But what exactly is the ***'heart'***?

Our pop culture songs and movies has basically reduced our hearts to be our feelings or emotions

PP But the Bible views **our heart as the inner being, the central you, made of your mind, feelings and will**

We think in our hearts, feel compassion and empathy and anger in them, as well as make our choices how to act from our hearts

The heart is critical, and priceless which is why Solomon cautions us: **PP** ***"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life."*** **Proverbs 4:23**

So valuable is the heart that Jesus applies the word ***'treasure'*** as a metaphor **12:35**

"The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil

treasure brings forth evil.” Matthew 12:35

Every human being has either a good heart or bad heart, a ***‘good treasure’*** or ***‘evil treasure’***
Unlike our modern culture’s belief that human beings are naturally good and have the intrinsic
power to change, the bible says we are born to be wild, born as sinners with an evil
treasure of a heart

All the way back to the book of Genesis, God said, **PP** ***“I will never again curse the ground
because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth.”*** Genesis 8:21

PP ***“For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.”*** Psalm 51:5

We don’t want to hold our newborns and admit it, but that beautiful baby already has a heart that
will grieve you with disobedience, that will love themselves more than God and you
And the only way to have a good heart, is to receive it through a transplant

PP ***“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the
heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”*** Ezekiel 36:26

You receive a new heart when you come to the Great Physician who died on the cross for all
who
would trust in Him

Whatever heart a person has-good or evil-it will eventually be seen in the person’s words

One person suffers difficulty and you hear complaints, anger and bitterness

Another suffers as well and you hear painful honesty kindness, and the affirmation of God’s love

What made the difference was the heart and a good heart bubbles up good words, even in
difficulty and pain

Those words give evidence to the condition of our hearts, and that evidence is admissible to
God’s court on the day of judgment, and this is no longer a message directed to the
Pharisees, but to all of us

***“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they
speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be
condemned.”*** 12:36-37

PP **A *‘careless word’* means an unproductive, barren and worthless word**

These are broken promises, flattery, words we do not mean or examine or put a value to

They are words we never even evaluated before we let them fly

Words we didn’t pay attention to when we said them...like *‘I’ll pray for you’* and we
never think about it again, or *‘How are you doing?’* and we really don’t care

I told you a few minutes ago that the average is around 16,000 words spoken a day

That amounts to 5,840,000 a year

The average person lives 78 years, and let's deduct the first 10 years as learning to get talking
That leaves 68 years at 5,840,000 a year, for a total of 397,120,000 words we speak
A 200 page book contains about 55,000 words, which means that we will each speak enough to
fill 7,220 full length books with our words in our lifetimes
Isn't it true that what Jesus said here seems as if He is making a big deal of a little issue
Next to murder, or stealing, or gossip, or slander, this looks like such a little thing
Yet we are going to be accountable by Jesus Christ for every word we ever utter
Our general and constant heart talk will be evidence either for us or against us one day
If even careless words condemn a person before Christ, then who can be saved?

PP J.C. Ryle said, *"If there were no other text in the Bible, this passage ought to convince us that*

we are all guilty before God and we need a righteousness better than our own, even the righteousness of Christ."

Only the grace of God can change the nature of our hearts, and the evidence of that new heart are words that build others up according to the need of the moment, and give grace to those hear

What Jesus means here is what James meant...faith without works is dead!

Words will give evidence of a person's evil treasure that they were born and died with

Or words will give evidence of a good treasure that was made good by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

When you stand before Christ, will your words evidence the fact that you have come to Christ in faith, and He gave you a new heart that began to talk in a new way?

Or will your words give proof that you lived having said no to God's offer of salvation, for they were empty, careless bringing grace to no one?

As I close, I'll tell you that I have never before been more attentive to my heart talk and I hope you are learning to be the same

"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

Amen?

Pray