

SERMON NOTES:
Mt.12.36-37 - “Pruning, Productivity, & Punishment”
June 19, 2022 #172

True Believers are Fruitful Trees:

Jesus says humans act according to their nature.

“By your words you will be justified [acquitted] ... or condemned.”

I. THE PARABLE v.33

Jesus’ general point was: “You must make up your minds about Me and My work.”

II. THE PERSONALIZATION v.34a

Vipers are deadly. Vipers are deceptive.

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.

III. THE PRINCIPLE vv.34b–35

What a person is on the inside, his mouth will give evidence of on the outside.
What the heart is full of, will overflow from the mouth.

IV. THE PUNISHMENT vv.36–37

❖ People’s words are an accurate gauge of their heart.

Salvation & condemnation are not produced by words or deeds, but they are manifested by them.

Jesus’ point is that words are reliable evidence of the reality of salvation.

The speech of a redeemed person comes from his renewed heart.

The only way of salvation is by God’s grace working through man’s faith

❖ We are saved for good words.

The Christian’s speech will reflect God’s transforming work in the heart.

All words of the unredeemed heart have no value.

*No spiritually good thing can come from a heart that is spiritually evil

A Christian’s customary speaking will be pure and his customary activities will be righteous.

Unbelievers will be judged by their own words (Lk.19.22).

The books that report deeds and the book that reports faith will alike testify against unbelievers.

✓ On judgment day our heart will matter most.

✓ The good words are words of faith in the Savior.

✓ A good heart declares faith in Jesus first.

✓ After we are saved, our casual words slowly change for the better.

➤ An evil heart has no words of faith in Jesus, and harsh and foolish words to others.

Jesus asks: “What do you say about me? What do you say in your most casual words to others?”

CONCLUSION:

Every mouth speaks, and we must consider what our mouths say as they follow our hearts and minds.

Jesus appeals to heart & mind and He wants every one of us to say, “I am for Jesus.”