You Are What You Say

Greg Kline · Matthew 12:33–37

INTRODUCTION

- If you want to be a healthy person, you need to eat in a healthy way.
- As we guard our speech, as we guard our minds, we have to be mindful first of what goes into our hearts.
- If we think we can speak one way and live another or be judged another, we are mistaken.

1 Choose to Be a Good Tree

Matthew 12:33–34

- You see the point we just made that we have to choose to be a good tree.
- You brood of vipers, how can you speak good when you are evil?
- Think about how you speak this morning. Do you speak like the world around you?

2 Out of the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth Speaks

Matthew 12:34–35

- So the question is not, how do we control our tongues, although having restraint is important. What's truly important is what is in our heart.
- The question is rather, to Jesus' point, where are the words originating? Where is it coming from?
- We must first purify our hearts. That means guarding against evil filth that is constantly banging against us, trying to come in. And it means pouring in righteousness, pouring in the word of God.

3 Give Account for Every Careless Word

Matthew 12:36–37; James 3:2–12

- I tell you, on the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak.
- If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.
- Careless words is everything that we speak. We are judged by what we say.
- No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

4 Keep Your Heart With All Vigilance

Matthew 15:17–19; Proverbs 4:23; Psalm 1:1–3

- What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.
- Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flows the springs of life.
- One, we don't hate sin as we should. And two, it takes vigilance.
- His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

5 Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak

James 1:19–21

- We need to guard our hearts first and foremost, but also can we guard the actual gate?
- Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
- One of the ways that we can control our tongue is with constant vigilance and constant concern.
- We owe him a transformed life. That means we take control, we harness every word we speak.

6 Realize the Consequences of Our Speech

James 3:5–6; Matthew 12:36–37

- The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life.
- How many churches have been divided? How many homes have been destroyed? How many friendships have been ruined?
- We need to count the cost, not just of following Jesus, but of every word that we say.
- If you're not worried about breaking up a family or a friendship or a church, recognize that we can be broken apart from our God.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If judgment were today, would your words condemn you? Or by your words would you be justified with the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ our Lord?**

MY NOTES