

WORDS MATTER – Matthew 12:33-37

Main Idea: Jesus teaches that our words have a source – our heart – and that we’ll be accountable for our “careless” words as commendation or condemnation. So, are our words hurting or healing, stirring or settling, and leaching or loving?

Intro: In 1879, the Oxford University Press in England sought to collect every single word in the English language and assemble them all into a new, authoritative dictionary. The SOURCE of the words historically and culturally was significant.

Text – Matthew 12:33-37

Jesus cares even more about where our words come from.

Our words come from the heart.

Three Connections (vs 33-35)

Connection of fruit from a tree with the tree itself. (v33)

Connection of the Pharisees’ words with their hearts. (v34)

Connection of treasure with the person whose it is and the effects it can cause. (v35)

Words come from one’s heart. For the heart is the wellspring of life.

Luke 6:43-45 captures a very similar message of Jesus, emphasizing the heart.

Proverbs 4:23 describes the heart as the wellspring of life – and the tongue.

James 3:2-12 affirms your words cannot be separated from your heart.

Jesus’ Exhortation (vs 36-37)

Beware of “careless” words – words not put to work, purposeless. (v36)

Words reveal our hearts – for commendation or condemnation. (v37)

Application – Three Questions

1. Are my words HURTING or HEALING? (Proverbs 12:18, 15:4, 18:21, 12:14, 16:24)
2. Are my words STIRRING or SETTling? (Proverbs 16:28, 14:5, 18:2, 18:13, 17:27, 13:3)
3. Are my words LEACHING or LOVING? (Proverbs 29:5, 16:27, 19:5, 12:25, 15:1)

Words matter. They can mean life or death. They matter because our hearts matter to Jesus. Don’t be careless with your words. Put them to work, make them purposeful for Jesus. May they be HEALING, SETTling, and LOVING.