

Power of Words: Part 8

Accountability of Words

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God has been speaking a tremendous word to each of us and His word has empowered us to see how we speak in a fresh and new light. I love how God cares and loves us so much that He seizes the opportunity to minister to each of us personally. He has purposed this word to be a pivoting moment in your walk with Him. How you receive and respond will dictate the abundance of the more He has ordained for you life.

In Part 6 of this series we begin talking about the fruit of good tree and a bad tree. That only the good tree is the one producing consistent fruit. The kind of fruit that only the Holy Spirit can produce through us. So we must allow God's spirit to be engrafted into us so that we can transform from a bad tree to a good tree. And in Part 7 we highlighted that our actions which is fruit is the extension of our words. Our actions will speak that if we are who we say we are. If we are True disciples of Jesus then our actions will prove our words. If our actions do not line up with what God has called a disciple then we fall into the bracket of what Jesus said were False Prophets. One who teaches a false doctrine. Teaching in reference to how our actions contradict our words. And Part 8 will show that we will be held accountable for the words we speak.

Matthew 12:33–37 NLT

33 "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. 34 You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. 35 A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. 36 And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. 37 The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."

Jesus made it explicitly clear that there is accountability to every idle word spoken. If we could for just a moment do a dive into the word idle.

Argos: Not at work, inactive, idle, not employed

If we look at the full context of what Jesus is saying we will find found that His words of warning was not directed specifically to the Pharisees but to everyone. The good and the bad tree. Jesus was only emphasizing that they were bad trees that were producing evil fruit. The idle words that we as individuals speak will be judged.

Let's now place the word idle with not working. You will give an account for every word not working on the day of judgement. We can get the just of it some, right? How about if we say it this way. You will give an account for every unemployed word on the day of judgement. Now we are starting to get a little more clarity. But if we apply the principle that Jesus was always speaking spiritually. So now let's reflect it from that logic.

You will give an account for every word spiritually not working on the day of judgement. But I feel that this next rendition will open our eyes to what Jesus is speaking to our hearts.

You will give an account for every spiritually unemployed word on the day of judgement.

This brings to the forefront the realism of accountability of our words. The judgement of how our words have either built up the Kingdom of God or torn it down. We all know that our words carry weight but are we considering the fact that one day we must stand before God and answer for how we have spoken. Paul speaks of this accountability. But look at how he words it.

2 Corinthians 5:10 NLT

10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

Before we came to Jesus we probably said statements that sound like this...I hope they get what they deserve. We referenced that statement with a heart that wanted someone to receive bad for the bad they have done. But Paul tells us that what we receive will be from the bases of the good or evil thing we have done in this earthly body. Is not our mouth a part of our earthly body? And wasn't Jesus giving the same statement about the good and evil fruit? But it doesn't stop there.

Romans 2:6 NLT

6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

Paul is again speaking from the reference of our works. I'll mention again that it's not our works that save us but that works is the fruit of our salvation. Jesus saves us by grace through faith and calls us to do the good works.

Ephesians 2:8–10 NLT

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

But now look at what Jesus said in Revelation:

Revelation 22:11–12 AMP

11 He who is unrighteous (unjust, wicked), let him be unrighteous still; and he who is filthy (vile, impure), let him be filthy still; and he who is righteous (just, upright, in right standing with God), let him do right still; and he who is holy, let him be holy still. 12 Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages and rewards with Me, to repay and render to each one just what his own actions and his own work merit.

Jesus isn't condoning the practice evil just stating the obvious. Those that have made up their mind and seared their consciences will remain in their current state because they have rejected truth time and time again. Jesus states the position or the reality of a good tree and a bad tree. Each will be rewarded by their action.

Even the seven churches mentioned Revelation chapter 2 and 3, Jesus addressed each of them with the same sentence. "I Know your works". If works are not vital to our fellowship with God then why is it mentioned so much. Why is the righteous judgement of God defaulted to works. Because it is the proof if our actions, words, and heart align with God.

And Jesus spoke that same truth to the Pharisee's.

Matthew 12:37 NLT

37 The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you."

I know that acquit is a big word but let's break it down. It just simply means justified or righteous. But the greek word that Matthew used has such a profound meaning. We are not righteous because of our words. Our words are the proof of righteousness. The fruit of our lips are edifying the Kingdom of God. Our words have been employed

in building the agenda that God has called us to. And as we learned last week that our actions are the extension of our words.

“If your actions are the extension of your words, then your words must be the engine of your actions. When a word is not at work—when it is ‘spiritually unemployed’—it is not merely a harmless waste of breath; it is a failure of your calling to represent Christ and building His Kingdom.”

The proof is in the actions and the words are the proof of the heart. This is a truth that we cannot avoid. And just as our words show us to be righteous they can also show that we are condemned. But what is so astounding about the greek word used is that it is in direct contrast or the opposite of the word righteous. These two words are not two different processes — it's between two verdicts rendered by the same judgement. So our word either prove or disprove who we say we are. Either a good tree or a bad tree. God's verdict is not ultimately determined by the words themselves but what the words reveal. They reveal good fruit or evil fruit. And both are rewarded as wages. Let's look at the rewards.

Romans 6:23 NLT

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

So what is sin again? An act that is contrary or opposite of God's character. It is separation from God's love and presence. But the eternal reward is eternity in His love and presence. But I love the encouragement that John gives us: John encourages us in 2 John 1:8

2 John 8 NKJV

8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

Our mouth can get us in a lot of trouble but our mouth can also bring us great reward. John calls the attention to each of ourselves. The consequences of suffering loss or great gain. And he emphasizes that we work in such a way that we receive a full reward. That means that we can receive less and our words, actions, and heart becomes evil. If we are not careful we will spiral into the position of losing it all.

In closing I want to make sure that we are in the understanding that the accountability of our words are not from the basis of casual conversation but how are words are moving God's Kingdom into the our lives and the lives of others. Are we remaining true to our word or are we failing to keep our word.

James 5:12 NLT

12 But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

Be true to your word and true to the call of the Kingdom of God!

Let me pray with you today!