

Power of Words: Part 7

Actions Are The Extension of Words

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Last week we spoke about a good tree and a bad tree and the fact that they both produce fruit but only one's fruit is consistent with the heart of God. Jesus closed his parable with a truth that cannot be denied. "What you say flows from what is in your heart." And if there is a transformation from a bad tree to a good tree then it becomes evident by what we speak. And now we are at the cross roads. We have been speaking about the value of words from part 2 up to part 6 of this series. These 4 parts have been the diagnosis but part 7 will introduce transformation.

Romans 10:9–10 NLT

9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Most likely we have all heard this scripture before. This passage is often related when we first get saved. Believing in your heart and confession with your mouth. This shows us that two things must take place when we repent and receive forgiveness of sin. We first believe in our heart. And just as Jesus said, What you say flows from what is in your heart. Salvation first happens from a surrendered heart. It happens within and then your mouth confesses the what took place within. But too often this is the end of the journey for so many individuals. Why is that you may ask. Because there is no grafted fruit that backs their confession.

Matthew 7:15–16 NLT

15 "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act.

Jesus said beware. So what does that mean?

Beware: To be on the look out for or to be aware. To beware is to have a knowledge and understanding of something or someone.

This awareness is intentional.

False Prophet: one who falsely assumes the work of a prophet or teaching false doctrine in the name of God.

Jesus warned us that in the last days that there would be many false prophets and that they would deceive many people. But Jesus prefaced His warnings of the end times with this statement.

Matthew 24:4 NLT

4 Jesus told them, "Don't let anyone mislead you,

This greek word is the same as the word deceive. Meaning to cause to wander or lead astray.

It's easy to deceive someone who is not on the look out or knowledgeable of God's word. And if we are not careful we be deceived and begin to deceive others. This is why our subtitle is addressing this topic today. Our actions are an extension of our words.

Jude 4 NLT

4 I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are warned yet many still ignore the warning signs. I can be a "Christians" but still have sex outside of marriage. I can be a "Christians" but still get drunk. I can be a "Christians" but still practice sinning. Let's define the term "Sinner". One who practices sins. So why do people say I'm a sinner saved by grace? Isn't this the very thing that Jude is addressing with the church? We must correct our understanding is we are to be what God has called us to be. I was a sinner saved by God's grace.

Jude continues that the condemnation of these type of people have denied Jesus as Master because of their action. Jesus said:

Matthew 7:20 NLT

20 ... just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

I know we talked about fruit last week but our fruit is the proof of what kind of tree we are. This backs up the fact that our actions (fruit) is the extension (proof) of our words (good tree or bad tree). So if we are believing in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and our mouth professing this belief then our words must be accompanied by actions.

James 2:14–17 NLT

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Who was James addressing here? Notice the terminology "Brothers and Sisters". He is speaking to his spiritual family, the church, the body of believers. People who have professing faith. Notice he says "if you say you have faith". Doesn't this sound just like what Paul wrote in Romans 10? But James continues with "but don't show it by your actions". This tells us that our faith or our confession of Jesus must be visible. Notice the structure of what James just said—he's not asking whether actions are nice additions to faith. He's asking whether words divorced from deeds constitute genuine faith at all. A declaration of faith without extension of actions isn't incomplete faith—it's dead faith. It has no vitality, no power, no capacity to transform or save.

James 2:21–23 NLT

21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God.

James is bringing our attention to the fact that faith in God was not limited to the death and resurrection of Jesus but that it was from the foundation of faith itself. Abraham is called the father of faith and his actions accompanied what he believed. His actions were the extension of his confession.

James 2:24 AMP

24 You see that a man is justified (pronounced righteous before God) through what he does and not alone through faith [through works of obedience as well as by what he believes].

Our works are the fruit of salvation. Don't be confused with the scripture that Paul spoke by the spirit.

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.

It is Grace through faith alone that saves us, not our works! We can never do anything good enough to earn salvation. We have been created anew so that we can do the good that God has planned. Grace does not eliminate works; it creates the capacity for them. This again shows us that the good actions is a part of God's plans.

Matthew 7:21 NLT

21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

Not everyone who says they are a "Christian" will make it into the kingdom of God. So who will? Those who do! Doesn't this emphasize that actions are an extension of our words? Doing the will of the father is producing the fruit that the grafted tree has enabled us to produce. But Jesus didn't stop there.

Matthew 7:22–23 NLT

22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

The ones professing their allegiance is now listing their works but Jesus renders a decision bases off of an investigation. I never knew you. How did He never know them? They made a confession, right? But look at what disqualified them... they practiced sinning. They were false prophets.

1 John 3:4–10 NLT

4 Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. 5 And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. 6 Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. 7 Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. 8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are children of God. 10 So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.

If we openly declaring Jesus as LORD and our actions and heart aligns with God then we will live accordingly but if our actions replicate the devil then we are not children of God. If we are saying one thing but being the opposite then we are in being the false prophet that Jesus warned us about and we are deceiving ourselves and others. Remember that a good tree cannot produce bad fruit and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit.

Matthew 24:25 NLT

25 See, I have warned you about this ahead of time.

We are without excuse ladies and gentlemen! Warning takes place before judgement. So I charge you today to speak your confession of Jesus with actions that are and extension of your words.

Let me pray with you today!