



SONS & DAUGHTERS
The Orphan's Words
Week 2

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Pastor Rob Murphy and New Song Church in Lake Elsinore.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

- “Hello, my name’s Thor and I’m a recovering Pharisee” — Christian music only.

Big Idea: Our speech reveals what we really believe about the gospel.

Are your words seasoned with grace because you understand how loved you are by the Father? Do you speak like a child? Or do you speak like an orphan?

In the gospel of Matthew, there is a segment of Scripture where Jesus shows how our understanding of the gospel is related to how we speak.

Matthew 12:33-34

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

1. Your speech shows whether you understand the gospel or not.

Let me give some examples of how your speech shows what you believe about the gospel, whether you are acting like a child of God or an orphan. Does your speech show that you're trying to gain God's acceptance by your good behavior?

- Excuse-making (“Here’s why I did that...”) shows we’re trying to justify ourselves.
- Blame-shifting (“You’re the reason I did that...”) shows that we’re not taking

responsibility for our own sins, because we know we can't justify ourselves. So somebody else has to take the fall. If we take the blame we'll be guilty and someone who is trying to justify himself with his behavior knows that he is guilty, so he has to divert the blame in order to avoid guilt.

- Complaining (“Why did you allow this, God?”) shows that we don't approve of how God is running our lives, because we think we can do better on our own.

- **Boastful speech shows that we have an orphan mentality, because we think we did it on our own. (“Look at what I do (or did).”)**

Our speech can reveal the pride of going it alone. In other words, it shows an orphan mentality dominates our thinking.

When we don't fully trust in the gospel at all times, our speech will reveal that we're basically trying to show how righteous we really are, how much we really deserve to be

forgiven, how much we really deserve salvation. When the truth is — none of us deserve anything God has given us. But He has given it to us because He is good and kind and loving.

Okay, a couple more examples of what our speech reveals about what we're really trusting in.

What does a critical tongue reveal? First, that we think we're right, because our criticism is

generally about something or someone that we think is wrong. But in that criticism are you trying to display to others how right you are? That you know better than others because you are better? You're superior.

- **Constructive criticism and Monday nights | Constructive criticism as a means of justifying our arrogant criticism**

What about defensiveness or the reluctance to apologize when we're wrong? It shows

we're not really trusting Christ with our reputations or with our righteousness. When we need to show that we're right it's often because we're not trusting in the righteousness God has provided us in Christ. We have to uphold the record of our performance to show others that we're not as bad as they think we are when in fact we're worse than they think.

“You're far worse than you think, but more loved than you could ever imagine.”

All these ways of speaking show us how far we slip away from the gospel during a single day.

What do you think your heart is looking for when you misuse your tongue?

³⁵ The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

Now, why do some people bring forth good treasure? Because they have good hearts.

³³“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

When you believe in Christ you're given a new heart. In other words, you become a good tree. When you forget you're a good tree, you try and justify yourself.

Let's go back to the question: What do you think your heart is looking for when you misuse your tongue? You're looking for justification. You want to be seen as a good person in and of yourself. "What drives all these sins is a mindset that rejects Christ's righteousness and seeks to build its own. Jesus' righteousness is not enough so I will use my tongue to get my worth, my value, life and righteousness." (C. John Miller)

In other words, I want to be good in and of myself. Now, if I'm not good in and of myself,

then how can I bring forth good treasure from my heart?

2. God has given you a new heart. Did you forget?

- MLJ: “Be who you are.” | You’re no longer an orphan. You’re a child of the Living God.

If you’ve been born again, you have a new heart from which to draw the treasure Jesus is speaking of in this verse. When we trust the gospel we bring forth good things, good

attitudes, good words, good works. Not in and of ourselves, but because of what the Father has done for us in the gospel of His Son by giving us new hearts.

³⁶ I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

This doesn't mean we're saved by what we say, but what we say shows what we believe in our hearts about the gospel.

3. The truth of the gospel should transform our tongue.

Whenever we try and justify ourselves with our tongues or try to show how right we are or criticize or misuse our tongue in so many other ways it's because we have moved away from God's gifted righteousness in an attempt

to establish our own righteousness apart from God.

Romans 3:22 (NIV)

²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,

This is one of the most amazing facts about the good news of Jesus Christ — God gives your life the righteousness of Christ. When we approach God and He listens to us and

answers our prayers it's never because we are worthy. It's because He has stamped our lives with the worthiness of His Son.

When Jesus Christ died for your sins, God stripped away the word "sinner" from your life. Then He stamped the word "worthy" over your life, because He took the worthy life of Christ and gifted it to you.

Am I beating this drum too often? "If the truth of our being justified by Christ alone is lost,

then all Christian truths are lost. There is no middle ground between ‘received’ and ‘earned’ righteousness. The person who wanders away from received righteousness has no other choice but live by earned righteousness. If he does not depend on the word of Christ, he must depend on his own work.” (C. John Miller)

Monitor yourself this week and see how often your fall into living by earned righteousness.

“Whoever is convinced that Christ is his only righteousness, does not only do his work cheerfully, gladly and well, but also, if necessary, submits to all kinds of burdens and sufferings in this life with love because he knows this is God’s will and that God is pleased by his obedience.”