



Sermon Discussion Questions - August 14 & 16, 2026
Matthew Part 3: Week 15
Matthew 12:33-37

Ice Breaker: *Jesus said, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”*

- **Q1:** Have you ever said something in the heat of the moment and immediately thought, “Where did that come from?” What happened?

Read Matthew 12:33-37 together. Jesus says that a tree is known by its fruit. Our words and reactions can give us a glimpse into what’s happening in our hearts.

- **Q2:** What tends to come out of you when you’re tired, stressed, embarrassed, angry, or feeling threatened? What might those reactions reveal about what’s going on in your heart?
- **Q3:** What are some things we can “store up” in our hearts—like pride, resentment, fear, comparison, insecurity, or self-righteousness—that eventually show up in our words and actions? Is there anything you recognize in your own life?

Jesus isn’t simply telling us to “watch our mouths.” He’s showing us that our words reveal who we really are.

- **Q4:** When something ungodly comes out of us—anger, criticism, defensiveness, gossip, bitterness, etc.—how can we learn to deal with the root rather than simply trying to clean up the fruit? What might it look like to stop and ask, “What’s happening in my heart right now?”
- **Q5:** Where are you tempted to focus more on changing your behavior than on genuine repentance and letting Jesus transform your heart? What’s the difference between simply “trying to be better” and actually bringing something to Jesus?

The Pharisees used religious-sounding words and actions to justify themselves while actively opposing Jesus.

- **Q6:** Where are you tempted to use “righteous” words or actions to make yourself look better—to yourself, to others, or even to God—instead of resting in what Christ has already done for you? Where might you be trying to self-justify?

The main point of the message this week was that we each need the heart-transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

- **Q7:** In your walk with Jesus, where have you seen the Holy Spirit genuinely changing what comes out of your heart?
- **Q8:** What is one pattern in your words or reactions that God may be bringing to your attention right now? What would it look like to bring that to Him in genuine repentance and dependence on the Holy Spirit this week?

Take a few minutes to encourage each other, and spend some time in prayer together!