

WORDS MATTER – p. 2
“Where Affirmation Begins”
Luke 6:43-45

The Trouble with Words

There’s maybe nothing more in life that shows us our need for the gospel than the words we speak.

-Not only have we experienced saying the wrong thing at the wrong time and in the wrong way – but we have all felt the guilt of it!

James 3:2 – *“For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.”*

-There’s nothing in life that so clearly reveals our need for the gospel than the words we speak!

-Let’s go to Jesus!

Read Luke 6:43-45

Pray

Illustration

Jesus gives us an agrarian illustration or metaphor of a fruit tree – in two parts –

-Part 1 – vs. 43-44a – *“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit.”*

-Part 2 – v. 44b – *“...For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.”*

-We are talking about the difference a good, productive fruit bearing tree verses a nasty, horrid and nuisance kind of bush...

-Our words are a matter of life and death!

-Proverbs 18:21 – *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.”*

Interpretation

Verse 45a – *“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil...”*

-So, the “good person” is the good tree and the “good” that is produced is the fruit.

If that is our conclusion, we are NOT reading carefully –

-The good person **out of the good treasure** of his heart produces good!

-The treasure determines the nature and then the nature produces the fruit!

So, according to Jesus’ interpretation, the most fundamental question is – “What does your heart treasure?”

-And notice that everyone has a treasure...everyone treasures something or someone –

-*“...out of the good treasure of his heart produces good...”*

-*“...out of his evil treasure produces evil...”*

-You have a treasure – so what or who is your treasure?

-Think of your treasure as what or who you worship...

According to Jesus’ interpretation, who or what you treasure will determine the nature that produces the fruit –

-TREASURE – NATURE – FRUIT

Application

Verse 45b – “...for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

-The application is about our talking – our words – Why?

-Because words matter!

-Proverbs 18:21a – “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue...*”

Why does Jesus focus on our words?

-When your mouth speaks out of the abundance of your heart – it doesn't lie – it reveals what is truly there!

Therefore

- ***Get the Treasure***

- ***Let the Treasure redeem your words***

1. Don't be overwhelmed by past failures
2. Consider your words
3. Evaluate the roots not just the fruits
4. Seek forgiveness when you fail
5. Ask God for grace to help