

The Reality of Words

2020 Mark Beard

Text: Matthew 12:33-37 NIV

³³ “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. ³⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

TD Jakes said, “Your words tell others what you think. Your actions will tell others what you believe.”

No matter how much we try we cannot separate what we think from how we feel or from what we do. Perhaps this is one reason there is so many scriptures that speak about the need to control our *words* and our actions. What we say and what we do are often at the source of how we feel and the attitudes we display.

In this passage we have read the fact is clear, even if we are not completely able to separate all of these enough to understand what is going on, God can and will and He will rightly judge what He finds to be true.

I. We Can't Hide from God Who We Are (v.33-34).

A. We can only hide who we are from those who do not know us.

B. A life lived out is a revelation of who we are.

II. The Content of a Heart Will Eventually Surface (v.35).

A. Words are driven by thoughts that turn to actions.

B. What we choose to believe will affect our behavior.

III. There Will Be A Day of Reckoning Which We Will Be Justified or Condemned (v.36-37).

A. What we choose to say is not an insignificant choice.

B. Thoughts, words, and actions make up our life and this is what will be judged.

Conclusion

Remember, even if we are not completely able to separate all of these enough to understand what is going on, God can and will and He will rightly judge what He finds to be true. If we are wise, we will pay greater attention to what is most observable to us—our *words*.