

Matthew Ch 12 vs. 33-

Last week we took the time to cover somewhat in depth vs 31, and 32 going over the unpardonable sin, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Because I felt it necessary that we understand the basics of what all that entails, because it seems to be a subject that's very confusing to a lot of people. So we took the time to look carefully at the direct context and then also what the broader scope of the rejection or the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is. Which to put it briefly in light of the 2 fold perspective that we looked at last week, the way that you can blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to call good evil and evil good; explaining or rationalizing away obvious evidence of the Holy Spirit. Attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan as did these Pharisees or when someone gives their hearts to Jesus and you accuse them of joining a cult or becoming brainwashed or whatever, be careful because your treading awfully close to that line. Because the Spirit bears witness on your heart to the legitimacy of what's happening and you can drive that conviction away and reject it, and reject it until the Spirit eventually will quit striving with you. and At that point (where ever that is, I believe it's different for each person) you've crossed the point of no return and you're lost. There is officially no more hope for you.

The 2nd application that is kind of knit together with the 1st one is to reject the work of the Holy Spirit with in your own life refusing to come to Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin and unrighteousness. And as the Spirit comes along side of you and begins to deal with you, showing you your sin, and your need for a savior. and Bearing witness on your heart that the only way to receive atonement for your sin is to believe in Jesus Christ and receive by faith the covering of His shed blood for the remission of your sin and you resist the Holy Spirit thinking you don't need Jesus. After all you're a pretty good person and hey, God's a good God and so I believe that He'll overlook my faults.

The bible says, "*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*" Have you ever told a lie? You're guilty, the bible also says, "*You shall not steal.*" Have you ever walked off with a pencil or a pen that didn't belong to you? Now you're a thief to, The bible says, "*You shall not commit adultery.*" You say wait a minute Jeff I know I've never done that, I'm innocent in that field; listen to what Jesus said, "*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" How do you stand now? You're already a liar so if you tell me you're innocent I won't believe you. "*You shall not murder.*"

Again it's a matter of the heart Jesus said even if you've ever had hatred in your heart or been angry at someone with out cause you're guilty of murder in your heart. And so with only 4 of the 10 commandments everyone one of us already stand guilty of being a lying, thieving, murdering adulterer before God and I could set here and show you where you've broken all 10. "*Honor your mother and father*" well by lying, murdering, thieving and being an adulterer you've already blown that one because there's not a whole lot of honor for your folks in those things. For times sake we'll stop there, if you were to step up to a judge on the counts of, murder, rape, and thievery, and he said to you we have here conclusive evidence that you stand guilty on every point, multiple times. Have you got anything to say for yourself before I throw the book at you? You say yeah judge I stand guilty as charged but on the basis of your honor, because you seem to be such a good guy, I believe you're going to overlook my faults and let me go with no repercussions! He's going to look at you and say you've got one out of 2 right. I am a good and honorable man and because of that there's no way I can let you go Scott free, because I'm a good man I'm going to have to see to it that your punished to the maximum allowable sentence because you're obviously a menace to society.

Yet people think that God who is Holy and righteous is going to overlook all the sin that put His Son on the cross and let them slide by; because He's good and fair. But it's for those very reasons that He won't allow sinful man into His presence, the very attributes of God people are counting on to get them into Heaven, are the very attributes that are going to keep them out. Because since God is righteous and Holy, He must punish sin, He must vindicate His righteousness or else He's a compromising God and no longer righteous.

But here's the good news, God has already satisfied His righteous standard, and poured out His wrath on all sin as it was laid upon Jesus Christ and His shed blood has provided atonement, or a means whereby we might be justified in God's sight. And all we have to do to have that atonement, or righteousness imputed to us is believe on Jesus, at which point we are completely eradicated of all our sin and imputed the righteousness of Jesus. Which means forgiveness for you and me. The Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus and so if we reject the Holy Spirit then there is no forgiveness, in this age or the age to come because God has provided no other means whereby we might be forgiven of our sin and counted righteous before Him.

So this morning if the Holy Spirit is dealing with you wooing you to Jesus I pray that you don't resist the Holy Spirit but rather humble yourself and come to Jesus for the remission of your sin. There's no other choice if want to receive forgiveness you have to come to Jesus, your either going to be for Him or against Him and Jesus will allow no other alternative. There is no gray area, let's read on this morning.

Vs 33

Again lets remember here that Jesus is still talking to the Pharisees that were calling good evil and evil good. and This statement reminds us of a similar statement of Jesus made earlier on in ch 7 when He said, *“every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”* And the point in this context is that the words of a man or a woman is indicative or an accurate reflection of that persons heart.

We’ve seen this progression with the Pharisees, at 1st they weren’t saying anything against Him out loud but they were accusing Him of blasphemy *with in themselves*. Then we saw them beginning to reason together and begin to plot the murder of Jesus, now they are verbally opposing Him before everybody. It began in their hearts and surfaced in their mouths. And Jesus is saying here that you can tell what kind of person someone is by the things that they say.

His illustration (as always) is a very practical one, if you have a good tree, good root system it equals good results, and good things surface, good healthy fruit. Now I have a couple of apple trees in my yard, and they have never yielded good fruit. I used to have a pear tree and I finally had to cut that thing down because it never bore good fruit and when that fruit that's already bad sits out in the hot sun and begins to rot it’s not a pleasant scent and it draws a lot of bugs. So bad things surface out of bad trees and it brings about bad things, it’s bad on your lawn mower blade and it makes for a lot of bugs. So again we see in this illustration that Jesus uses 1 of 2 absolutes, and both are mutually exclusive, you’re either for Him or against Him, gathering or scattering, good tree, or bad tree, speaking good things about the Christ or evil things. Your character is either going to yield good fruit or bad fruit and the evidence will surface through not only your actions but also your mouth.

Vs34

So as you can see Jesus wasn’t too worried about trying to when these guys over to being His friends, He calls them a brood of vipers, referring no doubt to their venomous nature. You recall J.B. said the same thing in 3:7, and again Jesus is calling down their hypocritical double standard. (How can you being evil, speak good things?)

James ch 3 says, *“the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth-fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.”* Jesus says how can you being evil speak good things? And what’s His reasoning? (Read)

Out of the abundance, or out of the overflow of what’s in your heart, that’s what comes out of your mouth. In other words the mouth spills over whatever the heart is full of; it’s out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. Whatever is in the well of your heart, will come out through the bucket of your mouth. That’s where the evidence surfaces as to whether or not you’re polluted, or unclean. Remember as we were studying the sermon on the Mt. and as I was making reference to just a minute ago, the acts of adultery, and murder have their roots in the heart and that is what God is always dealing with; the heart.

Jesus spelled it out even clearer in Matt 15 when He said, *“to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”* and He said, *“whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man.”* You see the fact is, is that before it ever comes out of our mouths it’s been conceived in our hearts. It doesn’t take too long to know where someone is at if you just have ears to hear what it is they’re saying. If you want to know where someone is at in their heart just listen to what they say. And we’ll talk more about that in just a minute.

Vs35

Prov 10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

Prov 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little.

Prov 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

So you see even as wickedness stems from the inside out, the same is true with righteousness. It's not enough to be able to put on a good exterior front; if that was the case the Pharisees would've had it made. Remember Jesus told them, "*you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.*" In other words if righteousness was an exterior quality you guy's would have it made, but righteousness is worked from the inside out. Reformation gets you no where, we need transformation; regeneration; holiness works itself from the inside out; starting with the heart and mind and then permeating out from there. As Paul wrote in Rom 12:2 "*do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" God works His righteousness in us beginning with the core of our being, the very seat of physical, spiritual and mental life. He deals 1st with the very center of our inner man; and with our thinking and our feeling and with our perception.

It's from whatever is in the seat, or the depth of that inner man that we draw from in even our common conversations. And it's not that we're setting there with some deep mind set thinking "I'm drawing from my inner man", we're just talking and the whole time our hearts are being revealed by the words we say. Jesus says here that it's from the treasure of our hearts that we bring forth whatever it is that we bring forth. And what is a treasure? It's something that we value is it not, if it weren't of value to you it wouldn't be a treasure now would it? So you and I show forth or bring forth what ever it is that we value, by the way we speak to one another; and inner act with each other. Whatever it is that you value, is what you're going to produce.

The long and short of it is that our words and our deeds will accord with what we are essentially. Leon Morris said this, "A good person does not do good sporadically or haphazardly, but habitually, and so with the evil person. Our deeds are a reflection of what we are, and they show what we really value, deep down. and Of course, we can produce from our treasure only what is there." I thought that was a good summary of what's being said here.

What you do and what you say is going to reflect whom you are in the inner man. And there's no getting around that. You may be able to fool me for awhile, but eventually the real you or the real me is going to surface. Never judge a person's character by the 1st impression you get but rather over a period of time. That's why Paul told Timothy, "*Do not lay hands on anyone hastily,*" but he was watch and allow the Lord to prove out the character of the individual. Because if they're a good person, that will evidence itself in consistency, their speech and their works will be consistent. And again we're not talking about perfection here, but a heart that is set consistently on the things of God and that will be made manifest over time.

Through that persons speech and actions, likewise if that person is not sincere is his or her relationship with the Lord that to will eventually surface. There's no way to perpetually hide that, eventually *“whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.”* Jesus said, *“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.”*

The true colors of a persons character will eventually surface, if it's good it will remain consistent; if it's evil or self seeking, that will be made known over time. Just as Paul wrote in Rom 8 because, *“those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”* So it will only be a matter of time before that persons true character surfaces if it's anything other than motivated by the love of God. Now remember all this that Jesus is saying has been spurred on by the fact that the Pharisees attributed His works that were done through the power of the Holy Spirit to the power of Satan. So as if they're not already black and blue from the Spiritual beating that Jesus has been giving them, these next 2 vs are like the left right combo that brings about the KO

Vs36

I am so thankful that being a believer my sin, and my “idle words” have been cast as far as the east is from the west, or else whoever was behind me on the day of judgment would have a long, long wait. Every idle word that has ever been uttered from your mouth, will have an account required of it if you don't know Jesus Christ and that word “idle” means careless or worthless. Those things that just shoot out of our mouth with out a 2nd thought as to what we're saying, or how it's going to be received.

That same Greek word that's' been translated "idle" here could've also been translated unfruitful, or barren. It's the word “*argos.*” And I found that interesting because there's a scripture that's often quoted that uses that same Greek word that's been translated another way. How many of you are familiar with James 2:20 *“faith without works is dead.”* Its reading in the Greek would say faith with out works is *Argos.* Dead, barren or unfruitful, faith that doesn't stir up good words is idle faith, useless faith, or worthless faith. And again it's not a works trip, it's that true faith bears good fruit, and it is true that we are saved by grace through faith not of works lest any man should boast, but what did Paul say right after that? He said that, *“we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

So there is definitely a balance there and true faith, or faith that's not idle will cause you to be busy about those good works that God has prepared for you. That's why James went on to say, *you "show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."* So, barren words, or unfruitful words, or you could say words that are dead, or of no value, if they come out of your mouth, and you're not under the blood, God will require an account of it.

That's not to excuse those of us that are under the blood, don't use God's grace as a cloak for vice. The point being that those words that we take lightly reflects who we truly are in our innermost being. That's why Paul the apostle encouraged the Ephesians in saying, *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."* And that word "corrupt" though it's not "argos" it's the word "sapos" and it means the same basic thing; worthless, or rotten. What's surfacing in your life, good fruit, encouraging words accompanied by the words to back it up, or bad fruit, rotten fruit with no works and idle babblings to show for it? Because there's nothing, no thought and no word, that goes unnoticed by God and one day apart from Jesus Christ you will stand to give an account for every idle word.

Vs37

Again this isn't in regards to those carefully thought out words that we use when we're under pressure or in the public eye. One man has said, "The carefully spoken words may be a calculated hypocrisy." When a person is consciously on their guard, they're going to be careful what they say and how they say it. But when they are off guard, then their words reveal their character.

There are plenty of people that are models of charm and courtesy in public, when they know they're being watched, and so they're deliberately careful about the words they choose and the way they act. But many of these same people are in their own houses often People of spiteful sarcasm, irritability, temper, criticism, hot headedness and complaint. Why, because there's no one there to see them. So their guard goes down, and the idle words fly, and the treasures of the heart begin to bubble up to the surface. That person that you are when you think no one's around. That's the person that God holds accountable, He's not impressed with our ability to suppress our flesh for a couple of hours a few times a week. He desires that our inner man be transformed into the image of His Son so that we don't have to suppress our flesh because it's dead, and so who you are in public is who you are in private. Because *"those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* Gal 5:24

A few of the fruits of the Spirit, or evidences of the Spirit in your life are what? Kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self control; how do your words condemn you? By revealing who you really are, they reflect what's going on in your heart. How do your words justify you? *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* Rom 10:9,10

By your words you'll be justified (just as if I'd never done it), or by your words you'll be condemned. God has left you that choice. He must punish sin, His righteousness demands vindication, but as I said when we 1st began this study; God has vindicated His righteousness once when He poured out His wrath on Jesus Christ as our sin was laid upon Him. And all you have to do to be completely eradicated of every idle word you've ever spoken, and have your sin forgiven and atoned for; and have imputed in it's place the righteousness of Jesus Christ being covered in His blood. Is believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died for you and that God has raised Him from the dead. In Romans Paul speaks of the righteousness of Christ that will be imputed to us, *if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.* It's only faith in Jesus Christ that will justify you in the sight of God. and There is no salvation in any other, *for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*