

## Judgment in Your Jaws

*Matthew 12:31-37*

### Introduction

Words matter. The words that we speak are serious. They are so serious that God illustrates this point in Matthew 12:31-32 by warning against the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. This particular sin, spoken against the acts of the Holy Spirit, will not be forgiven in this world or in the world to come. In this instance, speech is so serious that it can keep you out of heaven or keep heaven from you on earth.

We must consider the source of our words in order to practice speech that honors God and blesses others. The scripture tells us, a person's heart is known by their words just like a tree is known by its fruit. Inappropriate speech, as a rule of thumb, indicates a deeper problem in the heart of the person speaking. In other words, where there is a contaminated mouth, there is a contaminated heart. In this passage we learn, "...the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." (v.34) The heart is the center of your being and your mouth will only communicate that which you have stored up.

We will give an account for every careless word we speak at the judgment. (v. 36) God is listening to our speech and knows all of it. We must learn to understand the gravity of what we say because we will be held accountable for it.

The wise man understands the importance of cultivating the tongue and speaking wisdom. So how do we begin to have a heart from which good speech flows? Ask God for His help. Meditate on His Word and surrender to His ways. He ultimately is the One who has the power to change hearts and therefore the power to change what flows from it.

### Getting Started

1. Dr. Tony Evans gave us a directive to "watch our mouth" in preparation for this series. With this in mind, how did you do this week? When was it difficult to speak in a way that pleases God?
2. Prior to today's sermon did you understand the significance of your speech?

### Let's Get Personal

1. How does the knowledge that all your words are being recorded effect how you view the importance of your speech?
2. Why do you think people typically do not take their speech more seriously?
3. If you were to be judged right now on the "fruit" of your heart, what would the judgment be? Explain your answers.

### Take the Next Step

1. What practical step will you take to improve your speech?
2. Take a moment to think more about the state of your heart. Why is it in the state that it's in? What can you do to improve the condition of your heart?
3. Want to dive deeper into this topic? Read Matthew 7:15-20, Psalm 19:14, and Proverbs 16:23

### Renew Your Mind

*"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:37*

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