

Matthew 12: Just Words

The kingdom of God is built upon justice and fairness: grace excepting, we reap what we sow with man and God.

The doctrine of the Cross: God has sown His Son as a seed in the world through death, and now (by faith) the seed bears a crop through us for the one who sowed it!

God cannot be accused of injustice or unfairness: He asks nothing of us but what He has already given in Christ!

The Word of Righteousness: the seed of what we must become is in us...

We are quick to remind God if it ever seems that He is not taking His own Word seriously. "God, you promised!"

Question: Have we done what we promised? How seriously do we consider our own words? Or God's?

Matthew 12:33-42 ³³ "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

Immediately there is a call to real and lasting change, and for the creature to participate in its own transformation.

No man can tame the tongue...excuse for not trying

Jesus is calling us to engage with God in this matter. Our words are telling on us!

⁴You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Our words tell everyone around us what kind of person we are on the inside. They reveal what our hearts are full of.

Careless (idle) words are the words we speak without thinking- they are the truest reflection of our inner life.

Judgment is not punishment only, but reward: a fair return for the deeds we have done and words we have spoken.

We will be judged (rewarded) by God's standard for our words, not by our own- for better or worse.

If anyone considers himself religious and does not keep a tight reign on his tongue...

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." ³⁹But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

God will reward us based on how we USE WORDS and how we RESPOND TO WORDS.

Quick word: using words to build up our fathers...

Jonah's obedience required him to GO and SAY: "Proclaim to [Nineveh] the proclamation I am going to tell you..."

Nineveh's repentance also came with words: a PROCLAMATION was issued and men CALLED earnestly on God.

Having responded righteously to the words of Jonah, and used words judiciously to return to God, they will be witnesses against all those who did not repent at the preaching of Jesus.

⁴² *The Queen of the South* will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Why are we here today?

The Queen of Sheba tested Solomon with difficult questions. Solomon validated his wisdom with excellent answers. Both used their words to pursue and reveal the truth.

Skepticism vs seeking truth (signs vs questions)

The Queen also knew when it was time to stop questioning. She praised the work God was doing in Solomon and blessed the name of the Lord.

Having responded to the truth in word and deed, she will be a witness against those who deny the wisdom of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:29 ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need of *the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Matthew 7:24-25 ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Do I say, “They are JUST WORDS!” or do I fear God and say, “I will speak only JUST WORDS.”

Do I say, “They are JUST WORDS!” or do I fear God and say, “I will listen to JUST WORDS and respond in faith.”