

## Accountability

*“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” Matthew 12:36*

According to the Word, what you say reflects what’s inside (You know, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks). To me there are many different ramifications to this passage, particularly with verse 36. Often people skip over this verse because it scares them. Don’t be afraid of this verse, embrace it, and let it become interwoven into the fabric of your life (or should I say mouth). It’s called accountability and human nature tends to run from it!

*“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” Matthew 12:36*

Jesus spoke a lot to people in parables. Only those who really wanted to hear him, heard what He was saying. Today, He is wanting you to hear something. The trees in the passage below are about you and me. It’s all about choices you make as to what the tree produces.

*“Make a tree good, and then its fruit will be good. Or make a tree rotten, and then its fruit will be rotten. A person can recognize a tree by its fruit. You poisonous snakes! How can you evil people say anything good? Your mouth says what comes from inside you. Good people do the good things that are in them. But evil people do the evil things that are in them” Matthew 12:33-35 (GW).*

Don’t freak out, but you are going to have to give an account of your words, even the careless ones. That’s why Jesus said, *“By your words you will be justified or by your words you will be condemned.”*

What are your words saying? Are they producing life or they producing flesh? Are they building your faith or tearing it down? Are they edifying others? Today I want to encourage you that your words really make a difference. Used incorrectly, your words bring flesh which according to God’s word flesh produces nothing. We see in John 6:63 that Holy Spirit gives life and flesh produces nothing. When you walk in the Spirit, your thoughts, your actions and your words produce life. That means the words you speak should bring life.

Remember Proverbs 2:6, not only is there power in your words? It also means you can either be helped with them or snared by them. I am guessing snared is a consequence of the carelessness of words.

The Lord has a plan for your life and overcoming all obstacles is part of that, including your mouth.

Rev. Dr. Gina Cobb  
April 26, 2018