

Gleanings from the Gospels

Title –The Principle of the Matter - Curbing the Tongue

Prayer

Purpose/Review

This morning we are going to continue in our series... Gleanings from the Gospels

**The purpose of this series is to take our bible book knowledge
And discover how to put it into our daily life**

This morning we will look at one of most difficult things to control...

Our tongue...

SERMON TITLE – The Principle of the Matter - Curbing the Tongue

It tends to be out human nature to abhor silence...

We tend to have an opinion about whatever is being discussed...
Even if we don't have a clue what someone is talking about...

And some of us have the unfortunate ability to constantly stick our foot in our mouth...

EXAMPLE-

Let me give you an example...

Let's say that you just found out that you need a tooth pulled...

You've had minor dental work done before... but never a tooth extraction

You're freaking out about it...

And your mind is running circles about what is about to happen

And in the middle these mind games you run into someone you know

Without thinking... you tell them about your future dentist appointment...

When they hear about what your having done... the launch into a 10 minutes story

Oh man... I know someone who had to have a tooth pulled

They were in the dentist chair for 3 hours

The dentist had that chair tipped over so far backwards they almost passed out

Then finally... after about a dozen shots of Novocain...

And after they were finally numb...

They noticed all the tools the dentist was going to use

And on... and on they go...

Weren't you glad you told them about your tooth...

NOTE-

The bible is filled with lessons and warnings about curbing the tongue

It is one of those lessons of Jesus that is found in Matthew's Gospel...

Reading

Matthew 12

36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Doctrinal

These 2 verses are a couple of the most misunderstood verses in the bible...

We will have to give an account for every careless word...

By our own words we are either justified or condemned...

Wait... by my own actions I will either be saved or not saved...?

I thought I was saved by grace in faith of Jesus and not with my works...

It seems like Jesus is telling us...

That our behavior will dictate at least part of our Salvation...

So let's take a closer look...

Because there are two very important themes in our reading
Two very important lessons to discover

The first thing to observe is that Jesus is speaking with authority...

Matthew 12

36 But I tell you...

NOTE-

It's clear that Jesus is about to make a statement or statements
In response to something that someone said

And this brings us to our first theme...

NOTE-

What we say and how we say it matters to God...

Let's follow good bible study habits and read our verse in context

TURN IN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 12:22-24

Matthew 12

22 Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. 23 All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, This man cannot be the Son of David, can he? 24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.

NOTE-

The people asked the right question
Could this be the promised Messiah
The promised Son of David

Notice how the Pharisees responded

Matthew 12

24... this man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.

NOTE-

Their response was their attempt to sway public opinion against Jesus
More importantly, their words reflected a deeper spiritual blindness
And a resistance to the truth of Jesus' identity and His mission

Beelzebul (Beelzebub), is a name associated with a Philistine god, later used in Jewish texts to refer to a chief demon or Satan himself. This accusation is a serious charge, equating Jesus' divine power with that of an evil source, showing the Pharisees' desperation to discredit Him... **Berean Study Bible**

NOTE-

The Pharisees was kind of ironic
They acknowledged Jesus' power
But attributed it to an evil source

NOTE-

And because of their response
We find one of the most powerful truths
That Jesus ever taught

Drop Down to...

Matthew 12:31-32

Matthew 12

31 Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. 32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

NOTE-

Any sin or negative words said against God will be forgiven
But any negative word against the Spirit will not be forgiven

NOTE-

Any words spoken against the Son of Man shall be forgiven
But any negative words against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven
Both now and in the age to come

And here is the first lesson...

Those who deliberately reject the power of the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven
Those who deny the purpose and mission of Jesus will not be forgiven

How can they...

Acts 4

12... for there is no other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved...

Now... let's look at our reading again...

Because our 2nd lesson is in plain sight...

Matthew 12

36 But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

37... For by your words you will be justified...

This is the 2nd lesson...

NOTE-

Jesus has just issued a warning to the Pharisees
But within that warning is a ray of hope

NOTE-

It isn't about works... that our words save us
It's about the words we use to describe our faith

Placing these verses in context we observe...

The Pharisees denied the work of the Holy Spirit
They used careless words when they attributed Jesus work to the forces of evil

The people asked the right question... Could Jesus be the promised Messiah
Hinting that their hearts began to understand Who Jesus was

Therefore... by their own words...both the people and the Pharisees
Will either be justified by their words
Or they will be condemned by their words

Justified or condemned in the age to come... on the day of judgement

NOTE-

Jesus is teaching that there will be a day of judgement
As this lesson develops in the New Testament

We now know that in the age to come...there will be two judgements

The Great White Throne Judgement and the Judgement Seat of Christ

This will be our Tuesday Night discussion

NOTE-

So we have two groups of people
One group who will be condemned by their words
The other will be justified by their words

NOTE-

The Pharisees have just uttered the most damning words a human being can speak
Those who deny the mission of Jesus cannot be saved

NOTE-

But then we have that ray of hope
For by your words you will be justified

It isn't that our words save us
It isn't only about our words proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior

It's about the words we use BECAUSE we are saved

TURN IN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 12:33-35

Matthew 12

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. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35 The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

NOTE-

One can know what kind of tree they are looking at by examining its fruit
This is a pretty straightforward conclusion

If you observe peaches on the tree, you know it is a peach tree
If you observe apples on the tree, you know it's an apple tree

NOTE-

In a similar fashion Jesus is speaking about people
He is teaching us that you can tell the difference
Between good people and bad people... By the words they speak.

And by one's words... by every careless word... they will be Judged

Judged by Who... by God...

What does that tell you...

God keeps a complete record of all that we say and all that we do...

Malachi 3

16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who esteem His name.

How does that impact you...?

To know that God will know every word that you've ever uttered...

Stop and think about that... every word...

Does knowing that change your behavior...

EXAMPLE-

Google Starts Scanning All Your Photos As New Update Goes Live

Forbes.com

Take a moment to think before you dive in. That's the best advice for Google Photos users, as the company confirms its latest update can scan all your photos to "use actual images of you and your loved ones" in AI image generation.

We're talking Personal Intelligence, Google's latest AI upgrade path which lets users opt-in to connecting Google apps to Gemini. Why search for a doctor's appointment when Google has access to all your calendar events. Why search for a party invite when it reads all your emails. And why search for a specific photo of you and your loved ones to create an image, when it sees all your photos.

NOTE-

If man's latest invention... Artificial Intelligence can remember all that we've said Surely an all-powerful God can do the same

NOTE-

Jesus warns us that by every careless word we use we will be judged

Then this begs the question....

How do we control what we say...

How do we Curb Our Tongue...

This brings us to our first bullet point...

Application

The Principle of the Matter – Curbing the Tongue

1) The Greatest Indicator

The first thing that we have to do is take a good hard honest look at ourselves...

The greatest indicator that reveals exactly who we are... is our heart

Luke 6

45 The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

Our Words Matter: How Do I Avoid Careless Words?

Beloved saints, our words matter. All of them.

Our words can heal, but they can also wound.

Our words can build up, but they can also demolish.

Our words can bring joy, but they can also cause great pain.

James reveals to us a very uncomfortable truth...

James 3

8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men...

NOTE-

While this truth is found in all of us
James gives us some guidelines to follow

James 1

19b...But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger

And this brings us to our second bullet point...

The Principle of the Matter – Curbing the Tongue

- 1) The Greatest Indicator
- 2) Listen Carefully

Proverbs 18

13 He who gives an answer before he hears,
It is folly and shame to him.

Again... this is a very uncomfortable truth to admit

EXAMPLES-

How many of us have had this experience
We begin to discuss a topic and we're giving fact about that topic

When someone who is listening, suddenly blurts something out
Interrupting your train of thought... preventing you from finishing

How many of us ARE THAT PERSON...????

INTERESTING SUGGESTION-

Teachers learn to listen with their eyes
This allows them to catch non-verbal cues and expressions

NOTE-

When I study and read blogs about a certain subject
If they have a comment section... I like to read some of those comments
Giving me an idea of how the authors words were received

From the comments on one of the stories that I read...

I often answer before listening, if not audibly, I do it in my head. And then wait for the first opportunity to reply with my thoughts. This leads me to not actually hearing what is being communicated... focus on who is speaking, listen with the intent of understanding... **Luke Snyder**

NOTE-

Such an honest confession
Something that we have all been guilty of

Which brings us to our third bullet point

Once we HAVE listened carefully... we must

The Principle of the Matter – Curbing the Tongue

- 1) The Greatest Indicator
- 2) Listen Carefully
- 3) Choose Our Words Wisely**

Choosing our words wisely is the beginning of our **Christian witness**
Our actions... our words... are our Christian witness

Words have an impact on us and those around us every single day. This means each day we are confronted with a choice: how do we want to use our words? As Christians, we know words are much more than a form of communication. They can be a meaningful tool and a way to share the light of Christ in our lives... **Molly Howard**

NOTE-

At times, our strongest response is a wordless one
We all know that our instinct is to respond immediately
We want to get our thoughts out there

NOTE-

If we are representing Christ... and we are
And if we ultimately want to share our joy in Jesus
Then one way to do that is to is with gentle words

Proverbs 16

24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb,
Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

NOTE-

We want people to feel comfortable around us
Learning to listen carefully not only allows us to understand what's being said

When we are fully engaged in listening... we show honor and respect
This helps take down any walls or barriers that may exist

And then... choosing our words wisely... we have the opportunity to share Christ

Colossians 4

6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

CLOSE