



**Text: Matthew 12:22-37**

*Introduction:* Jesus performed an abundance of various miracles which were all proof of his God-given \_\_\_\_\_! Yet, in one instance noted in Matthew 12, some of the Jews attempted to argue the miracles of Jesus were not the result of God's power, but \_\_\_\_\_'s. In order to pick apart their illogical argument, Jesus spends some time pointing out how foolish it would be for Satan to oppose himself by casting out one of his own \_\_\_\_\_ (12:22-26). Connected to this argument, Jesus also later argues, "*Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit*" (Matthew 12:33).

Directly following this statement, Jesus says to his accusers, "*Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things?*" (Matthew 12:34). As Jesus makes this statement, He is turning the tables on his venomous accusers. While we should apply this text to its immediate context, we should also consider the principles Jesus lays down in this text as we consider our own \_\_\_\_\_.

**I. Principle #1: You Will Be Known By Your \_\_\_\_\_**

A. The first principle Jesus lays down has to do with how our actions, including our \_\_\_\_\_, produce our reputation (Matthew 12:33).

B. Various factors influence our \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 4:12-13).

C. Since our words form our reputation we must be cautious of those words which will \_\_\_\_\_ impact us. We can be known as...

1. \_\_\_\_\_critical—spineless cowards (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

2. \_\_\_\_\_critical—tactless, tasteless, insensitive nitpickers (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

3. \_\_\_\_\_critical—saying one thing, but practicing another (James 3:8-13).

C. Your reputation is more valuable than gold or riches, are you depositing into the investment or deducting from it by your \_\_\_\_\_ and actions (Proverbs 22:1)?

**II. Principle #2: Your Words Reveal Your \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. The second principle in this text show us what comes out of a person's mouth tells us what is in his \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 12:34).
- B. Our hearts make a choice to treasure either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 12:35).
- C. What do your words say about your heart's greatest \_\_\_\_\_?

**III. Principle #3: God Holds Us Accountable For Every \_\_\_\_\_ Word**

- A. This teaching is not merely good advice from Jesus, it will be a basis for \_\_\_\_\_ with God (Matthew 12:36).
- B. A long list of the types of words displeasing to God can be made as we surf the Scriptures.
  - 1. Words that \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:29-32).
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ words (Ephesians 5:3-4, 11-12).
- C. God expects our words to be of a certain kind and said in a certain way (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6). Would you be ashamed for God to \_\_\_\_\_ what He heard you say?

**IV. Principle #4: Your Words Will Either Justify Or Condemn You**

- A. The words of these Jews made it very clear where they \_\_\_\_\_ with regard to Jesus, because of it they would be condemned (Matthew 12:37).
- B. Likewise, our \_\_\_\_\_ will be God's measurement on the judgment day as to whether we stood with Him or against Him in our lives.
- C. With this in mind, we should be more vocal about the King (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Conclusion: We need to think very carefully about what we say. It can be a horrible temptation to think God does not hear. But, \_\_\_\_\_ hears every word!