



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Dear Younger Me

Part #4 – Learn the Lesson of the Lasting Echo of Your Words

Small Group Discussion Guide on Matthew 12:33-37

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Matthew 12:33-37 directly connects with the Woodland Heights Christian Church core value of a **Biblical Worldview**. The sermon emphasizes that every Christian should live life with the understanding that their words will echo into eternity. This means that we should be slow to speak, slow to anger, and quick to listen. (James 1:19)

As you study this text, you will see the destructive speech of the Pharisees' and the call of Jesus for Christians to be wise with their words. This challenges us to examine our inner lives, guard our tongues, and speak with eternal wisdom. The sermon's Big Idea, "**The Condition of Your Heart Determines the Conversation of Your Life...Your Words are an Echo of Your Soul,**" urges us to deepen our faith by aligning our speech with God's grace, fulfilling our mission to reach, teach, and serve others through lives that echo His truth and love.

Section #1 – ENCOUNTER

"Observing God's Word"

Imagine standing in a vast canyon, where every word you shout echoes back, amplified and unending, revealing the depth of your voice. In Matthew 12:33-37, Jesus' teaching on words is like that canyon—exposing how our speech echoes from the heart, carrying eternal weight. As you read this passage, notice how Jesus uses images of trees, treasures, and judgment to warn that words don't fade but echo into eternity, calling us to a heart renewed by Him.

Let's start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Matthew 12:33-37 (ESV) as a group, family, or an individual, letting God's Word sink in. Picture the scene: Jesus confronting the Pharisees' accusations after a miracle, using their words to reveal deeper heart issues, and pointing all to the need for transformation through Him.

Core Questions

- What do you notice about Jesus' words and the Pharisees' actions in this story? Why is this relevant?
- What are key words, phrases, or themes that grab your attention in this text?
- What are the main lessons that you learn about the character of God from Matthew 12?

Section #2 – EXPLORE

“Understanding the Passage and Sermon”

Let’s unpack the big idea from this sermon dealing with the lasting echo of our words and the three lessons outlined in the message—learning that words reveal the heart, hide nothing from its treasury, and echo in judgment. Discuss these as a group or reflect on them as an individual.

Quote – “What comes out of our mouths is but the overflow of what fills our hearts.” – **A.W. Tozer**

- What does the quote from A.W. Tozer teach us today? Why is this an important lesson to remember?

Lesson #1 – The Flow of Your Words Produce the Fruit of Your Life (Matthew 12:33)

The sermon uses the tree metaphors in Matthew 12:33 to show that words are fruit revealing the heart’s condition, with principles urging you to examine the root and cultivate inner change.

- How does Jesus’ parable of the tree encourage you to examine your own speech?
- Have you ever seen words—yours or others’—bear good or bad fruit in relationships? How did it impact your walk with God?
- What ways does Matthew 12:33 challenge you as a Christian today?

Lesson #2 – Never Forget that Your Tongue Will Never Hide What Your Heart Treasures (Matthew 12:34-35)

Jesus calls the Pharisees a “brood of vipers,” exposing how evil hearts produce evil words, while good hearts bring forth good from the treasury of the heart. The sermon emphasizes choosing to speak from a Christ-filled heart.

- What does this teach you about the connection between a heart abundance and daily speech?
- How can you fill your heart’s treasury with God’s truth to transform your words?

Lesson #3 – Be Wise and Guard Your Speech for Every Word Will Echo in the Halls of Judgment (Matthew 12:36-37)

Jesus warns of accountability for every careless word on judgment day, calling you to examine your hearts, guard your tongues, and commit your words to Christ. The sermon stresses the weight of your speech as it echoes into eternity.

- What does this reveal about the sacredness of words in God’s eyes?
- How can we live with words that honor Christ rather than bring condemnation?

Section #3 – EMBRACE

“Applying God’s Word”

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and discuss how you can live out the truths from Matthew 12:33-37.

- **Examine Your Heart:** Like the Pharisees, reflect on recent words spoken in haste or hurt. Is there an area where your speech reveals heart issues? Write down one step to cultivate your inner garden through prayer or Scripture this week.
- **Fill Your Treasury:** Identify a “treasure” in your heart—gratitude, bitterness, or grace—and commit to replacing negative overflows with Christ’s truth. Spend time daily in God’s Word, asking Him to renew your speech from within.
- **Guard Your Tongue:** Commit to one practice of wise speech this week, such as pausing before responding, encouraging someone daily, or avoiding careless online words. Discuss with the group how you can hold each other accountable to eternal echoes.
- **Memorize and Reflect:** Memorize the sermon’s memory verse, Matthew 12:37 (ESV): “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Reflect on how this verse challenges you to align your conversation with your heart’s condition. Share with the group how it inspires you.

Closing Challenge and Prayer

As a group, pray for one another to learn the lasting echo of words, filling hearts with Christ’s treasure and guarding speech for eternity. Encourage each member to take at least one action step and follow up next week to share how God worked through their obedience. Consider participating in a Sunday School class or inviting someone new to join your small group to continue growing in faith together.