

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 6TH-7TH, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

### FRUIT (MATTHEW 12:33-37)

#### CONCLUDING THE CONFRONTATION

After the "house divided" analogy, Jesus further points out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees by pointing out how their own words were their worst enemies.

- Jesus uses the analogy of a tree. "Trees" produce fruit based on what they are at their root. If a tree is bad, bad fruit. If a tree is good, good fruit.

#### OUR WORDS HAVE AN ENORMOUS IMPACT

Of course, people are the trees. Jesus is using this simple analogy to teach us that **what comes out of us is indicative as to what is inside of us.**

- **This simply means that what we say and how we live matters. How we conduct ourselves reveals the state of the heart.**

#### THE "STOREROOM OF GOOD OR EVIL"

In v35 Jesus refers to our "storerooms." This is the inner self that we invest either good or evil things into. This "storeroom" is where the fruit of our lives comes from.

- **This is why what we watch, listen to, partake in, subject our families to, and give our time, money, and energy to matter!**

#### "PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO ACCOUNT FOR EVERY... WORD"

Jesus assures us that "careless" words will not go unaccounted for because words can do unimaginable amounts of damage.

- The Pharisees were **speaking in a way that protected them and their lifestyles regardless of who it hurt. We can easily fall into the same trap of self-preservation that hurts others.**

#### ACQUITTED OR CONDEMNED?

I love the glimmer of hope Jesus throws out during this rebuke. He says our words can hurt, but they can also save.

- **Not only can positive words help those around us, they can actually save our souls. It is by calling on His name that we are saved (Rom. 10:13).**

### LIKE JONAH (MATTHEW 12:38-42)

#### "TEACHER, WE WANT TO SEE A SIGN FROM YOU?"

Let's be honest, it's totally natural to want to see a sign from someone that claims to be God, but the Pharisees had already seen plenty.

- Addressing Jesus as "Teacher" was false humility covering up their hostility. Their demand to see signs was an indication of their unbelief, not desire to know the truth.

#### WITH OPEN MINDS THEY WOULD HAVE SEEN

Jesus didn't do miracles to impress people, but they were a tool to show people Who He was. The problem with the Pharisees is they had no desire to see Who Jesus was.

- **This is the real issue; do we have a desire to know the biblical Jesus? Do we want truth? Do we have open minds and hearts?**

#### YOU WANT A SIGN? HERE'S A SIGN.

Because the motives of the Pharisees were wrong, no matter what sign Jesus did, they wouldn't recognize it. But, Jesus told them to expect a sign "greater than Jonah" and "greater than Solomon."

- Jesus was telling them about His coming crucifixion and the unexpected believers to follow.

### JONAH AND NINEVEH

Similar to the prophet Jonah that was in a fish for 3 days and told a people to repent, Jesus would be in a grave and also call for repentance. Unlike Nineveh that repented, the Pharisees would face judgment because they reject Him.

- This was yet another biblical example Jesus gave in support of His identity.

### A CLEAN HOUSE (MATTHEW 12:43-45)

#### A TOUGH PASSAGE TO INTERPRET

V43-45 is a hard passage to figure out, but it more than likely emphasizes Israel's (and our) limited time to accept the Gospel. Jesus is basically warning the Pharisees, and all unbelieving people, that we only have a short time to decide our beliefs.

- **Jesus leaves no room for ambiguity and indecision. We must choose.**

#### REJECTION YIELDS MORE REJECTION

As we briefly talked about last week, if one consistently rejects the signs in front of them their heart will continue to harden until it reaches a point of no return (Rom. 1:28).

- If one is asking if they have reached this point, they have not. **It is the absence of any desire to know truth that is truly terrifying.**

#### FILLING THE HOUSE

The analogy of an evil spirit returning and finding an empty house refers to the lack of filling our souls with the things of God. If we fight off a demon for a time but don't "fill our house" with His Spirit, it will only get worse.

- **Are we praying, reading, serving, in community, and giving? Are we filling up with the right things?**

### FAMILY (MATTHEW 12:46-50)

#### "...HIS MOTHER AND BROTHERS WERE... OUTSIDE."

Jesus wanted to challenge the idea of family. He was not disowning or being condescending to His blood family, but He was making the point that the eternal family is greater than our earthly family.

- Jesus is referring to the church: **the believing people of faith that follow Christ and love each other.**

#### THIS IS A VERY TOUGH CONVERSATION

To people that come from broken homes, the idea of a family is comforting, but for those put into the predicament of having to side with Christ over blood relatives it gets very difficult!

- **Jesus believes both physical and spiritual family is important**, but He also knows that one is eternal and one is not.

#### WHAT MAKES US MEMBERS OF GOD'S FAMILY?

Jesus rhetorically asks, "Who is My mother and brothers?" before He points at His disciples and proclaims that they are His family.

- **Jesus defines His family as "whoever does the will of My Father in heaven." So, the question of us is, do we do the will of God?**

#### WHAT FRUIT ARE WE PRODUCING?

- Do our actions reflect what we say we believe? If not, do we really have faith in God and His Word?
- Jesus said, **"A tree will be known by its fruit."** What evidence do we give that we are true followers of Jesus?
- **Galatians 5:22-23 (CSB)**

#### ARE OUR EYES OPEN?

- Do we see the signs God has put all around us? Or, **are we so preoccupied with the world, its lusts, and distractions that we miss what God has done and is doing?**
- By what filter do we see the world and the people in it?

#### ARE WE PROPERLY FILLING OUR HOUSE?

- What are we feeding our minds? What are we listening to? What are we watching? Whose opinions are we taking to heart?
- Are we taking evil thoughts captive (2 Cor. 10:5)? Are we going back to the Word and prayer?
- Do we strive to think on good things?
- **Philippians 4:8 (CSB)**

#### WHAT FAMILY DO WE REALLY BELONG TO?

- Many say they are Christians but do we "do the will of the Father?" His will is not easy, but it is fulfilling and brings true contentment and peace.
- In light of what we have recently seen, are the ways of the world working? **There is another way, and Christ wants us to be a part of it.**