



- Matt. 12:33 “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.
- Matt. 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
- Matt. 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.
- Matt. 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.
- Matt. 12:37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
- Matt. 12:38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”
- Matt. 12:39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
- Matt. 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- Matt. 12:41 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.
- Matt. 12:42 The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.
- Matt. 12:43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.
- Matt. 12:44 Then he says, “I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.
- Matt. 12:45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

## Observations & Discussion

As you read this section of Scripture remember that it is all part of a single confrontation with the Pharisees that started back in vs. 22. Keep that in mind as you interpret the text & answer the questions.

1. How does what Jesus said in vss. 33-37 relate to the accusation of the Pharisees in vs. 24? What is Jesus' point about Himself and the Pharisees?

2. In vs. 34 Jesus said, "*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*" Do you, or have you ever had a problem with what comes out of your mouth? According to Jesus what is the root problem & how do you fix it? Be specific about how you can fix that problem.

3. Vss. 36-37: how do our words determine our eternal destiny & how does what Jesus said here relate to what we studied last week? (ref. Romans 10:8-13)

4. In vs. 38 the Pharisees ask Jesus to give them a sign to prove that His power is from God. Based on our study last week why is their request so silly?

5. In vss. 39-42 Jesus makes an incredible prediction & claims about Himself. He also affirms some historical truths. What did He predict? What did He claim about Himself? And what did He affirm as historical realities? Finally—why is what Jesus here said so important to our study of the Bible?