Dear Open Door Family,

Thanks so much for your prayers for Carol as she had surgery on Monday. Everything went really well and she came home Tuesday. She is resting at home a bit sore still but recovering and gaining back her strength. As I sat in the hospital with her and listened to the things that were being said by others it made me realize once again that the words we use and how we use them is very important to God. As I was reading the following verses several things jumped out at me. Let's look at these verses together.

Matthew 12:34-37 *(HCS) Brood of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil?* ***For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.*** *[35] A good man produces good things from his storeroom of good, and an evil man produces evil things from his storeroom of evil. [36] I tell you that ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT people will* ***have to account for every careless word they speak****. [37] For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

You are worse than snakes in the grass. That is what Jesus was calling the religious Leaders. Why? They had accused Him of being demon possessed. So Jesus went straight to the heart of the matter. You are speaking out of the overflow of your hearts. The implication is that what they had just said was evil because their hearts were evil. He then went on to tell them that they would give an account for EVERY CARELESS WORD. So they would be held accountable for these words which they spoke about Jesus in jealously or anger. By way of application we need to remember *"...that what we say reveals what is in our hearts. What kinds of words come from your mouth? That is an indication of what your heart is really like. You can't solve your heart problem, however, just by cleaning up your speech."* (Life Application Bible) In order to REALLY change we must have a heart change, a change in our motives, and attitudes. That can only happen as we come to the Lord each day and ask for HIS help and strength to live and speak so that we can honor Him in all we do and say.

PRAYER: Lord God, thank you that YOU care about every word that I speak. Thank You that I can be cleansed and forgiven for wrong, sinful, careless words that I have spoken in the past. Please help me to honor You with my speech today!

Pastor Mark Kieft
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