



Series: Unexpected Messiah
Passage Mathew 12:33-50
Title: Examining Our Spiritual Condition
Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 9/20/2020

Discussion Starter – Why is it so important for us to step back from time to time and examine our own spiritual condition? What are some of the dangers we face if we do not examine our own spiritual condition?

Evaluate Our Words (Matthew 12:33-37)

- Read Matthew 12:22-29. Jesus has just healed a man that was brought to Him who was demon possessed, blind and mute. The Pharisees who were the religious leaders accused Jesus of doing this by the power of Satan. Jesus gives the Pharisees some logical reasons why this miracle could not be performed by Satan. What is important about the way Jesus goes about His interactions with the Pharisees? What can we learn from the way Jesus uses His words here?
- In Matthew 12:33, Jesus makes an analogy about fruit and the fruit tree. What is the message He is conveying here and to whom?
- In Matthew 12:34, Jesus calls the Pharisees a brood of vipers. Why do you think He spoke these harsh words to them? What is the meaning for “brood of vipers” and what message about the heart is He conveying to them? How does our heart affect our speech?
- What is the significance message you see Jesus making here about idle words? What are idle word and how do they impact us today?
- Read James 3:2, 3:8-9, 1:26 and Ecclesiastes 12:14. How can we as Christians view these verses in a positive context? What are some ways we can evaluate our own words?

Evaluate Our Wants (Matthew 12:38-40)

- If you could have anything one thing from Jesus what would it be? What was wrong with what the Pharisees asked Jesus to show them? How does this apply to us in the church today?
- What did Jesus mean by His statement of the “evil and adulterous generation”?
- What significance does the sign of Jonah have in Jesus’ discussion with the Pharisees?

Evaluate Our Worship (Matthew 12:41-45)

- What was Jesus showing the Pharisees about their flawed worship? What kept the Pharisees from truly worshiping Jesus? What did they worship? How do people fall into the same trap Pharisees today? Describe in your own words what it means to worship God.

Evaluate Our Walk (Matthew 12:46-50)

- How can we evaluate whether or not we are truly walking with the LORD? What are some of the key indicators we should be looking for? What are some indicators that might seem true but are not? Read Matthew 7:21-23 and 25:31-46. What additional insight are gained from these verses?