

“You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.” Matthew 12:34-37 NLT

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I'd like to listen to all the great things you say but your life is just too loud to hear you! Can't good words just BE good? Does it matter who says them? The word "good" and "evil" is used a lot in this passage - good person, things and heart, as well as evil person, things and heart. I notice the opposite is not true, most likely impossible to do - like, good words producing a good heart. Jesus also talked about a treasury. Hmm, a place where valuables are kept. A thēsaurós is the root the English term "thesaurus" which refers to a "storehouse (treasure) of synonyms. There's a place in our soul where ideas, thoughts, dreams, wishes and desires are stored. They are most important to us because they essentially ARE us! From that place, we put things in and take things out, like a idea bank account, with deposits and withdrawals. I'm sure folks want specific definitions of what is good vs what is evil. There are words, but it is much more likely to just know it when you see it, or feel it. Yes, the hardest part is when the two get switched around and people doing evil are called good and people doing good are called evil. Isn't this the point Jesus is making? God defines terms. Why? Because he created all things. The clay cannot say to the potter, call me water, for I believe that truly in my essence that's what I am. The clay can claim anything it wants, but it will not change the facts of its nature. In any case, Jesus makes it clear, the behaviors are coming from a source and that source is the storehouse of who we are. He calls it the heart. And, if that's where God says it comes from, guess what? That's where it comes from.

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Dad,

There are a lot of things stored in my heart. I hope most of it is good, but I have a feeling that some of it is bad! There is evil, there is wickedness in my storehouse. I see it creep up and out in my thoughts and even words. I HATE it when it vomits out in my behaviors 🤢. However, that's where your Word and your grace continues to wash and transform my heart. Thank you Holy Spirit for bringing the convictions of truth to my evilness to transform me into the image of Christ!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root