

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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The Abundance Of The Heart

Dear Friend,

Have you ever been around a person who seemed like a very nice and decent person, but the moment they opened their mouth and began to speak your impression of them completely changed? Whether it was a long string of profanity or just the most negative outlook on life imaginable, those words affected how you looked at the person. More importantly, those words framed the world that person was living in.

It doesn't take long to recognize the disposition of a person simply by listening to what is coming out of their mouth. If a person is strong in faith and the things of God the evidence of this can be found in their daily conversation. If a person is steeped in fear and despair, then you will likewise be able to identify them by the words they speak. They may even attempt to present themselves as a very "religious" person, but what comes out of their mouth tells a very different story.

Please allow me to preface what I'm about to say with this statement. **God didn't call us to pick apart each other's words.** The point I will be endeavoring to make here is that the answer isn't to try and learn a new vocabulary of faith filled words. The answer is to change what is going inside of you so that what comes out is faith filled words without you having to try and say the right thing.

Here's an example of what I'm talking about. **"If anyone is going to catch the flu I know it is going to be me. I'm so afraid of being sick I'm just a nervous wreck."** Or, **"All my neighbors have had their houses robbed. I am so afraid I'm next."** Or, **"I have all my retirement savings in the stock market and I worry about it constantly. I'm so afraid the bottom is going to come out of the stock market and I'll have nothing."**

Does any of this sound familiar? I'm sure you can attest to the fact that this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to fear filled words and negative dispositions. People can be so full of fear and negativism about everything to the

point that no one wants to be around them. It's as if a dark cloud envelopes their whole being.

You can even ask them: **“Hey aren't you a Christian?”** They might respond: **“Well of course I'm a Christian. I've been attending the same church all my life. It's the same building my Grandfather built. How dare you ask me if I'm a Christian! Why would you question such a thing?”**

Could it be that what they were saying in their daily conversation gave a clearer picture of what was inside them more than simply declaring; **“I'm a Christian.”** I believe this to be the case because no matter how hard a person tries to “walk the walk” and “talk the talk” of a Christian, whatever is in them in abundance is going to come out of their mouth.

Jesus Himself even told us this would be the case during an encounter He had with the Pharisees. (Matthew 12:34)

***“Oh generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”***

Jesus is saying that whatever you have inside of you in abundance is going to come right out of your mouth, like it or not. **“Oh, Mark, that can't be true.”** It most certainly is true, just as true today as when Jesus said it thousands of years ago.

Here's what was taking place when Jesus uttered these words in Matthew 12. Jesus had just entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. (Matthew 12:9)

***“And when He was departed thence, He went into their synagogue:”***

There Jesus found a man with a withered hand and He healed the man. Of course, this made the Pharisees upset and they accused Jesus for healing on the Sabbath day, which led to them wanting to destroy Jesus. (Matthew 12:14)

***“Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against Him, how they might destroy Him.”***

Here were the spiritual leaders of their time looking into the face of the creator of the universe and wanting to destroy Him. If Jesus was like many Christians today He would probably have tried to convince them that it was all just a big misunderstanding and that there was no reason for anyone to get hurt, especially Him.

Instead, Jesus slipped away from them and a great multitude followed Him and He went right back to doing what He was supposed to do; heal the people. (Matthew 12:15)

***“But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew Himself from thence: and great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.”***

Notice how Jesus didn't pull back, go into hiding and refuse to minister to the people. He continued to minister, and they brought unto Him a man who was possessed with a devil. (Matthew 12:22)

***“Then was brought unto Him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and He healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.”***

Even when conventional wisdom might have said: ***“Don't attract any more attention to yourself, Jesus.”*** Jesus continued to heal the people and to set them free from the devil. He did so because He wasn't filled with fear and trepidation about what people, particularly the Pharisees, might think about Him. **He did so because of His great love for the people.** What was in Jesus in abundance wasn't fear; it was faith believing that what He said, would happen.

The Pharisees, on the other hand, were not filled with love and compassion for the people. What was in their hearts in abundance was fear and hatred and envy and jealousy. **“How do you know this, Mark?”** Just look at what they did in response to Jesus healing this man. (Matthew 12:24)

***“But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, ‘This fellow doesn't cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.’”***

What a thing to say, to think that Jesus was teamed up with the devil to deliver people. This gives us some idea of just how messed up these Pharisees actually were. Here they were face to face with God Himself, in human flesh, and they had the nerve to say that He was working for the devil. (Matthew 12:25)

***“And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.’”***

In other words, Jesus is saying that the kingdom of God isn't siding with the devil to set people free. That would mean that the Kingdom of God is divided against

itself and it will not stand. What the Pharisees wanted was to remain the same wicked people that they were and yet be revered as spiritual leaders. Jesus is trying to get them to see that a person can't be on both sides of the fence at the same time. (Matthew 12: 30)

***“He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathers not with Me scatters abroad.”***

Look at these words. (Matthew 12:33)

***“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.”***

Jesus isn't just teaching about casting out devils, nor is He focusing only on the words of our mouth or the authority we walk in as believers. The message Jesus is teaching here is one message with many facets. His message here is about how complete the change we experience at our new birth makes; **“the tree good.”** Once the tree is good the fruit will be good so long as what we feed the tree is the pure water of the Word.

In so doing, the water of the Word going in in abundance causes good fruit to be produced through the words of our mouth, which in turn frames our world. (Matthew 12:34)

***“Oh generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”***

We are framing the world we live in by the words of our mouth, which is what is in our heart in abundance. Put God's word in your heart in abundance and allow His word coming out of your mouth to frame your world. This in turn will affect every part of your being.

~ Jesus Loves You!

*Mark Jenkins*