

SET APART SPEECH
Luke 6:45

- This year, we are developing the theme, “Living Fully – Living Holy”. As we continue to reflect on what holiness (being set apart) looks like in some of the very day-to-day areas of our lives, today we’ll focus on the words we speak.
- In Luke 6:43-45, we are confronted with the truth that our words are simply a reflection of what’s going on inside us. Thus, the following principle is true...

To change our words, we need God to change our hearts.

- We’ll explore how this principle emerges in some very practical issues we face.

Words of Anger (James 4:1-4)

- Our anger often comes from situations in which our attempts at self-fulfillment are blocked.
- We allow God to deal with the root of our anger as we...
 - Surrender our agendas to God’s purposes and timing.
 - Intentionally forgive instead of harbor resentment.

Words of Gossip (Proverbs 18:8)

- Gossip often stems from our attempts to bolster our own self-worth at the expense of someone else.
- We allow God to deal with the root of gossip as we...
 - More deeply receive the truth that we are loved by God. (1 John 3:1, 4:7)
 - Ask God to help us see people through His eyes.

Words of Deceit (1 Samuel 15:9-16)

- We often hide the truth as an effort toward self-protection, as we try to take control of our circumstances and safeguard or advance ourselves.
- We allow God to deal with the root of deceit as we ...
 - Are honest with Him about our struggle to trust. (Psalms 32:3-5)
 - Ask God to deepen our trust in Him. (Proverbs 18:10)

Discussion Questions

What are the implications of the truth that our words are simply a window to our true inner being? Think of a time you said angry words you later regretted. Can you think of what caused this angry response? What might be a proper response when you are with a group of people who begin to talk negatively about someone not present? What are some important things to consider when you are tempted to shade the truth?