

**July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**The Heart of the Matter- Gary Chupik**

What were some things from the message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

**READ: Matthew 12:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. <sup>35</sup> A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. <sup>36</sup> But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**Q** How can you tell if a tree is good or bad? What is good and bad fruit?

**Q** Why do you think Jesus puts such an emphasis on having to give an account of every word you have spoken? **What’s so important about words?**

**Q** Think of some examples of the power of words.

**In the message, Gary said “Your mouth speaks what’s in your heart.” Read the following passage:**

**Proverbs 4:23-27**

Above all else, guard your heart,

for everything you do flows from it.

<sup>24</sup> Keep your mouth free of perversity;

keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

<sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look straight ahead;

fix your gaze directly before you.

<sup>26</sup> Give careful thought to the paths for your feet

and be steadfast in all your ways.

<sup>27</sup> Do not turn to the right or the left;

keep your foot from evil.

**Q** What can our words be evidence of?

**Q** What kinds of words might suggest our hearts are not in the right place?

**Answer:** “Complaining, negativity, being critical, saying hateful things, calling people names, omitting truths that would otherwise change people’s opinions and on and on and on.”

**Q** “What you feed grows, and what you starve dies.”

What should we be feeding ourselves? What should we be starving ourselves of?

**Q** In what ways would your life be different if you spent as much time reading the Bible as you do consuming TV, movies, video games, social media and the news?

**Q** How can we allow the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and our words?