

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37

*Without Context.



TODAY'S VERSES:

Matthew 12:36-37

Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 5:1

Matthew 12:33

Proverbs 18:21

James 3:5-6

Ephesians 4:29

James 4:11-12

Romans 8:1

Revelation 20:11-12

11. All My Sins On The Jumbotron

RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:

Matthew 12:36-37 is often misunderstood out of context to mean that all of our sins ("every careless word") will be put on display for all to see on judgment day. This verse, in context, is spoken to self-righteous Pharisees who attributed Jesus' miracles to Satan...it was about their rejection of God's work—not a universal principle that our sins will be publicly displayed.

Our words are powerful; they can build up or destroy, they can reveal our hearts, and have life-and-death consequences. Jesus' warning was specifically directed at those rejecting Him. Those who trust in Christ are judged by Christ's righteousness rather than our own words or deeds.

The Gospel results in complete forgiveness. Jesus has already borne believers' shame and sin. In light of Christ's work, we can live boldly in the confidence that our names are written in the Book of Life. Let us trust in Christ's finished work, rather than being paralyzed by fear of judgment. Emphasizing grace provides the foundation for transformed communication.

- How do we take our actions seriously while resting in the assurance that believers won't face condemnation? What does it mean to live responsibly with grace?
- What do your typical speech patterns reveal about your heart? Consider your complaints, encouragements, gossip, and/or silence.
- How has fear-based teaching about God's judgment affected your relationship with Him, and how might understanding grace differently change that relationship?
- How might considering the power of your words shape your daily interactions?
- What does heart-level transformation in speech actually look like?
- How can believing your name is in the "Book of Life" practically change how you handle criticism, conflict, or your own mistakes?
- Does believing that Jesus has already borne all of your sin and shame change your willingness to be vulnerable and honest in your relationships?