

Words We Never Say

Matthew 12:31-37

³¹ “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. ³² Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵ The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶ But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Mark 11:25

²⁵ Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions.

Matthew 6:15

But if you do **not forgive** others, then your Father **will not forgive** your transgressions.

Introduction: The Power of Words

Every family has certain words that are never spoken at the dinner table. Maybe in your house it was a disrespectful expression, a certain insult, or a phrase your parents would immediately correct.

Words matter. They reveal what is happening inside of our hearts. Jesus said, "For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart" (Matthew 12:34).

Our words are not accidental. They are spiritual X-rays. They expose the condition of our hearts. A bitter heart produces bitter words. A grateful heart produces thankful words. A loving heart produces gracious words. A hardened heart produces dangerous words.

This morning, I would like us to think about four phrases that a growing Christian should never say. They are not vulgar words or profanity. They are far more serious than that. These are words that can slowly shut the door of our hearts to God's grace.

Let us call them **"Words We Never Say."**

I. "I Will Never Forgive"

The Barrier of Bitterness

Jesus said, "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone..." (Mark 11:25).

He also said, "*But if you do **not forgive** others, then your Father **will not forgive** your transgressions.*" (Matthew 6:15).

These words are difficult. Because all of us have been hurt. Someone lied about you. Someone betrayed your trust. Someone disappointed you. Some wounds run very deep.

Perhaps even now, a name immediately comes to your mind. And when we think of that person, we say, "I'll never forgive."

But notice what happens. When we refuse to forgive, we think we are imprisoning the other person. In reality, we are imprisoning ourselves. Bitterness is like drinking poison and hoping the other person dies.

Illustration: Carrying the Stone

A pastor once asked a young woman to carry a large rock everywhere she went for one week. She carried it to work, to the grocery store, and even beside her bed. After several days she was exhausted. The pastor then asked, "How does it feel?"

She replied, "It's heavy. I'm tired of carrying it." He said, "That's exactly what unforgiveness does to your soul."

Bitterness is heavy. It steals joy. It robs peace. It poisons relationships. Most of all, it hinders our fellowship with God.

Jesus connected forgiveness with prayer because an unforgiving heart cannot freely enjoy communion with God. Furthermore, your prayers won't be answered.

Now, forgiveness does not mean:

- pretending nothing happened;
- excusing evil;
- trusting an untrustworthy person again.

Forgiveness means releasing the offender into God's hands. It means saying, "Lord, You are the Judge. I surrender my right to revenge."

When we say, "I will never forgive," we are saying something dangerous: "My justice matters more than God's mercy."

But remember how much God has forgiven us. We were sinners. We rebelled against Him. Yet Christ prayed from the cross: "Father, forgive them."

The cross leaves no room for an unforgiving spirit. If God forgave us infinitely, how can we refuse to forgive others?

Application

Who is the person you need to release to God today? You may still hurt. You may still cry. You may still struggle.

But forgiveness begins with a decision. "I choose to let God handle this." "I choose to obey God's command no matter what!" That decision becomes the first step toward healing.

II. "I Have No Need to Pray"

The Trap of Independence

No Christian would ever stand up and say, "I don't need God." Yet we often live as though we don't.

How? By living prayerless lives. A day without prayer is a declaration of independence from God.

Prayer says: "I need You." A lack of prayer says: "I can handle this myself."

Pride doesn't always shout. Sometimes pride is simply silent.

Illustration: The Child Who Refused Help

A little boy was trying to move a large rock in his backyard. He pushed. He strained. He cried. Finally, his father came and asked, "Are you using all your strength?" The boy replied, "Yes!" His father said, "No, you're not. You haven't asked me to help."

How often are we like that? We struggle. We worry. We carry burdens. Yet we never ask our Heavenly Father for help.

Prayer is not our last resort. Prayer is our first response.

Jesus Himself prayed.

If the sinless Son of God needed prayer, how much more do we? Before choosing His disciples, He prayed. Before the cross, He prayed. On the cross, He prayed. Prayer was His lifeline to the Father.

Martin Luther once said, "I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

Most of us would say, "I have too much to do to pray."

Luther said, "I have too much to do not to pray."

Prayer is an expression of humility. It is admitting: "I cannot live this Christian life on my own." We need God's wisdom. We need His strength. We need His guidance. We need His grace.

Application

Perhaps your spiritual dryness is not because God has moved away. Perhaps it is because prayer has disappeared from your life.

Begin again. Even five minutes a day. Talk to God. Tell Him your fears. Tell Him your worries. Tell Him your needs. Prayer keeps our hearts soft and dependent upon God.

III. "I Have No Need of Christ"

The Myth of Self-Sufficiency

Jesus said, "Whoever is not with Me is against Me" (Matthew 12:30).

The world says: "Be a good person." "Believe in yourself." "You can save yourself." But Christianity says something radically different. We cannot save ourselves. We need a Savior.

Illustration: The Drowning Man

A man fell into the ocean and could not swim. A lifeguard jumped into the water to rescue him. But the drowning man fought against the rescuer. He insisted, "I can do this myself!" Eventually, exhausted and helpless, he surrendered. Only then could he be saved. This is humanity.

We are drowning in sin. Christ comes to rescue us. Yet many people insist, "I don't need saving." "I can manage my own life." "I'll earn my way into heaven." But salvation cannot be earned. It can only be received.

The greatest illusion in the world is self-sufficiency. The rich think their money can save them. The educated think their knowledge can save them. The moral think their goodness can save them. But all of us are sinners.

All of us need grace. All of us need Christ. Paul said, "By grace you have been saved through faith... not as a result of works" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Christ is not an accessory. He is not a supplement. He is not an addition to an already good life. He is life itself. Without Him, we are spiritually dead. With Him, we have eternal life.

Application

Perhaps today you have been relying upon your own goodness. Your church attendance. Your morality. Your reputation. None of these things can save you.

Only Jesus can. Trust Him. Depend on Him. Rest in Him.

IV. "I Will Not Listen to God"

The Danger of a Hardened Heart

Jesus gave one of the most serious warnings in all of Scripture: "Blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven." This passage often troubles believers.

Many fear that they have somehow committed the unpardonable sin. But the very fact that they are concerned usually proves they have not. The Pharisees saw the works of God. They saw the miracles of Jesus. They knew the truth. Yet they deliberately called the work of the Holy Spirit the work of Satan. Their hearts had become so hard that they called good evil and evil good. This was not a momentary doubt. It was a settled, stubborn rejection of God's truth.

Illustration: The Hardened Path

A farmer once explained why some soil never produces crops. People constantly walk across it. The ground becomes so hard that seeds cannot enter. The problem is not the seed. The problem is the hardened ground. The human heart can become like that.

Every time we say "No" to God, the next "No" becomes easier. Every time we resist conviction, our hearts become harder. Every time we reject truth, our spiritual hearing becomes dull. A hardened heart is dangerous. Not because God stops speaking. But because we stop listening.

Hebrews says, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

Today. Not tomorrow. Not someday. Today.

Because every act of obedience softens the heart. Every act of resistance hardens it.

Application

Has God been speaking to you? Perhaps about forgiveness. Perhaps about prayer. Perhaps about salvation. Perhaps about a particular sin.

Do not keep saying "No." Respond while your heart is tender.

Conclusion: Words That Open the Heart

There are words that close our hearts to God's grace.

- "I will never forgive."
- "I have no need to pray."
- "I have no need of Christ."
- "I will not listen to God."

But there are also words that open the heart. "Lord, help me forgive." "Lord, teach me to pray." "Lord, I need You." "Lord, I will obey."

Those words lead to life. Those words invite grace. Those words keep our hearts soft before God.

A Quiet Moment of Reflection

Close your eyes for a moment. Is there someone you refuse to forgive? Is prayer missing from your life? Have you been depending on yourself instead of Christ? Has God been speaking to you about something you continue to resist? Bring it to Him now.

The good news of the Gospel is this: No heart is too hard. No sin is too great. No failure is beyond His grace.

If we humble ourselves before Him, He is ready to forgive, restore, and renew. May our words never shut the door of our hearts to God's grace. Instead, may we say every day:

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Teach me to forgive, teach me to pray, and keep my heart soft before You."

Amen.