



TAKE

5



5 Verses
5 Questions
5 Minutes

Treasure

by Mary Kane
www.onlybyprayer.com

Please take a moment and go before God in prayer. Confess to Him any sin and ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Please read Matthew 12:33-37.

Verse 33 opens with, "Either *make* the tree good ..." In this verse, *tree* is a symbol for man. The word *make* means *to form, to bring about*. We can infer from the definition of *make* that we have a choice as to whether or we will become good or bad.

How is a tree known?

How is a man known (verse 34)?

Just as a tree is known by its fruit, we are known by our words.

Mistakenly, I have believed that words originate from my mouth, but where do words truly come from (verse 34)?

In the NKJV, the last half verse 34 reads, "... for out of the abundance of the mouth the heart speaks." The word *abundance*, in the original language translates as, "leftover, residue, *that which I delight*." Whatever delights me, good or evil, is stored in my heart and out of those experiences I speak forth words. Words of life or words of death.

Please read verse 35 again.

Where do the good things come from?

The word *treasure* is very interesting. I was surprised to learn that it **does not** mean

gold, silver, diamonds or rubies. In the Greek, *treasure* means, "a place to store things."

In my living room, I have a cedar chest also called a hope chest. My cedar chest contains precious mementos from years gone by. Every now and then I open my cedar chest and linger over the treasures within ... baby booties ... scribbly little pictures drawn by little hands ... corsages ... pictures ... love letters. As I peruse my treasures I relive the memories over and over. Our hearts are living vessels of treasure. Whatever we have stored in them we will relive and experience again and again. We must carefully choose what we place in our hearts.

Chillingly, *treasure* can also mean, "a casket." Our hearts can be caskets of dead painful memories or a hope chest brimming with blessings and grace. The choice is ours.

Is your heart treasuring or holding on to any painful memories ... things you think can never be healed or forgiven?

If your answer is yes, give that memory to Jesus, and ask Him to give you beauty for your ashes.

I pray God's blessing and grace upon your heart this day. God loves you.

Mary Kane

By Mary Kane
www.onlybyprayer.com
all rights reserved
copyright 2015
may reprint for ministry use.