

Midweek Study Lesson 08/26/2026

Sunday August 23, 2026

THE VOICE OF VIPERS, Matthew 12: 34

872 2093 9705 / 188146

I. Getting to Know “Yourself”

Reflection: God uses imperfect surrendered people. How might a past failure, once forgiven, become part of a testimony that helps somebody else find hope and come to Christ?

Explain the following points in reference to Sunday’s sermon.

1. Poisoned Piety. –

2. Perverted Proclamation. –

3. Petrified Hearts. –

Observation Question: In Matthew 23:33, who is Jesus speaking to, and what kind of leaders are being confronted in that moment?

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Interpretation Question: Jesus describes some leaders as whitewashed tombs. How does that image help explain why outward polish, religious speech, and public respect are not the same thing as holiness?

Application Question: The Holy Ghost brings conviction, not just emotion. What would that conviction look like in a real response—repentance, confession, or making something right with a person who was wronged?

AMMO

Matthew 23:33

“Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?” NKJV

Matthew 15:8

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.” NKJV

Matthew 23:27

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.” NKJV

Revelation 3:20

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” NKJV

Key Takeaways

- **1. Faith must be mirror, not mask.**
- The name of Christ can sit on the outside of a life while the nature of Christ is absent from the inside. A mask helps a person look acceptable, but a mirror tells the truth before God. Real faith does not merely sound saved, dress saved or perform saved. Real faith lets the word expose what is hidden and heal what is poisoned.
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- **2. Poisoned holiness still harms souls.**
- The Pharisees were dangerous because they were respected, religious, and believable. Poisoned piety does not always come shouting false doctrine. Sometimes it smiles, quotes scripture, hugs the saints, and keeps a knife ready for somebody's back. Holiness without surrender becomes venom dressed in church clothes.
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- **3. Truth mixed with lies is poison.** The serpent in Eden did not need a weapon because twisted words were deadly enough. A little lie added to truth does not make truth stronger; it makes the whole thing corrupt. The believer must know the word for oneself because seductive speech often borrows Bible language while fighting against God's heart
- **4. Hard hearts resist holy conviction.**
- A petrified heart can know the word and still refuse to be known by the word. The Holy Ghost does not come only to stir hands, feet, and voices, but to bring conviction that leads to repentance. A softened heart will go to God, make wrongs right where possible, and refuse to let poison keep spreading inside.
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- **5. God uses imperfect surrendered people.**
- The Bible does not hide the flaws of the people God used. Samson, Solomon, Rahab, and the disciples all show that God's mercy is bigger than a stained background. Past sin may become the very testimony God uses to help somebody else find the way out.