

Luke 6:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Analysis

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good (ὁ ἀγαθὸς ἄνθρωπος ἐκ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ θησαυροῦ τῆς καρδίας, ho agathos anthrōpos ek tou agathou thēsauroū tēs kardias)—the heart's treasure (thēsauros, θησαυρός) determines what emerges. A treasury filled with good produces goodness; one filled with evil (ponēros, πονηρός—actively wicked) produces wickedness. The crucial principle: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh** (ἐκ γὰρ περισσεύματος καρδίας λαλεῖ τὸ στόμα αὐτοῦ, ek gar perisseumatos kardias lalei to stoma autou).

The word perisseuma (περίσσευμα) means overflow, surplus, abundance. Speech reveals what fills the heart—words overflow from the heart's reservoir. This explains why Jesus emphasized heart transformation, not external conformity. Clean speech without a clean heart is impossible; corrupt speech reveals a corrupt heart. The gospel doesn't merely reform behavior but transforms the heart's treasure through regeneration.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism recognized the heart (kardia, καρδιά) as the center of thought, will, and emotion—the core of personhood. Jeremiah declared the heart

deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9); Ezekiel prophesied God would give a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26). Jesus taught that defilement comes from within (Mark 7:20-23)—the heart must be changed. This emphasis on internal transformation distinguished Jesus' teaching from Pharisaic externalism. The mouth speaking from heart-abundance appears in Matthew 12:34—what fills us inevitably overflows.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does your habitual speech reveal about the treasure stored in your heart—what truly fills and drives you?
2. How does Jesus' teaching that speech flows from heart-abundance challenge superficial attempts to change behavior without addressing heart transformation?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	ἀγαθόν	ἄνθρωπος	ἐκ	τοῦ	ἀγαθόν	θησαυροῦ	τῆς
G3588	A good G18	man G444	of G1537	G3588	A good G18	treasure G2344	G3588
καρδίας	αὐτοῦ	προφέρει	τὸ	ἀγαθόν	καὶ	ὁ	πονηρόν·
heart G2588	his G846	bringeth forth G4393	G3588	A good G18	and G2532	G3588	an evil G4190
ἄνθρωπος	ἐκ	τοῦ	πονηρόν·	θησαυροῦ	τῆς	καρδίας	
man G444	of G1537	G3588	an evil G4190	treasure G2344	G3588	heart G2588	
αὐτοῦ	προφέρει	τὸ	πονηρόν·	ἐκ	γὰρ	τοῦ	
his G846	bringeth forth G4393	G3588	an evil G4190	of G1537	for G1063	G3588	
περισσεύματος	τῆς	καρδίας	λαλεῖ	τὸ	στόμα	αὐτοῦ	
the abundance G4051	G3588	heart G2588	speaketh G2980	G3588	mouth G4750	his G846	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 4:23 (Parallel theme): Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Ephesians 4:29 (Good): Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

John 7:38 (Parallel theme): He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Colossians 3:16 (Parallel theme): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 59:12 (Parallel theme): For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

Colossians 4:6 (Parallel theme): Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Proverbs 12:18 (Parallel theme): There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Hebrews 8:10 (Parallel theme): For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Ephesians 5:19 (Parallel theme): Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Psalms 59:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?