

**02/01/2009 – Tom Hamilton****“Every Idle Word: How We Speak” (con’t)**

- Matt 12:36 – every careless/idol word is what we will be judged on
  - v34 – our words come from the heart; we restrain our actions but not our words sometimes
  - Words we haven’t put any thought into are careless
  - What is the purpose of the words you’re using?
- What words are not idol?
  - Not just “plain and forward”
    - It doesn’t always have to be clear, plain, forward
    - If we want people to think, we can be vague
      - Matt 16:5ff – Jesus is vague in order to teach
      - Acts 10 – Peter’s vision of the animals in the blanket: vague
      - Not careless, but in fact more thought probably went into them
  - Not just being literal
    - We determine literality based on context and cross-reference
      - 1 Peter 3:3 – not a literal statement about not wearing clothes
    - If we insist everything must be literal, we will find many contradictions
      - Prov 26:4f – how can these verses be literal? (cf. with not just “plain and forward” statements)
      - Luke 14:26 – do we literally “hate” our family?
    - Humor can fall into this category
      - Matt 15:26 – Jesus being playful about the Jew/Gentile relationship
      - Matt 23:24 – Jesus paints a funny picture
      - Titus 1:12 – Cretans talk against themselves
    - Sarcasm can fall into this category

- Amos 4:4 – God says to go to Bethel and sin
- Not just subjective
  - Think about what people will think if we say something a certain way
    - We shouldn't assume the worst from people
  - We can't let our interpretation be the standard when others might meant something else or said something a certain way
    - The standard of judgment from God comes from the heart, not always from the words we used