

# “Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones and Words Can Hurt Me”

Based on Matthew 12:34-37 (NIV) November 5, 2017  
Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

*Matthew 12:34 - (To the Pharisees, Jesus says) "You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.*

† **A person's words reveal his or her character, attitudes, ambitions, and thoughts.**

*Matthew 12:35 - The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.*

† **You don't have to listen long to determine if someone has a heart that is good or a heart that is evil.**

† **The bruises or breaks from sticks and stones will heal, but the wounds from evil words often do not.**

*Matthew 12:36 - But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.*

† **When people are “off” their guard (use “careless words”), then they show what is truly in their heart and it outflows to their speech.**

*Matthew 12:37 - For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."*

† **God always hears me and I will be judged by my words.**

† **My words can hurt or my words can heal.**

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† **Words are powerful.**

† **Words change lives.**

† **Healing words like “thank you,” “I love you,” “yes you can,” “I’m sorry,” “I was wrong,” and so on, helps my heart become more as God would want.**

## **Applying Today's Message to My Life:**

† What type of words were used in the household I grew up in?

† What would it sound like if someone followed me around and recorded all my conversations?

† What are one or two specific steps I can take to work on saying more “good” words and less “evil” words?

† What “healing” words can I share with someone today?  
This week?