

34 Ye brood of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth  
 35 speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure  
 36 bringeth forth evil things. But I say to you, That every idle word which men shall speak, they shall give an account  
 37 thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, or by thy words thou shalt be condemned.  
 38 \* Then certain of the scribes and pharisees answered,  
 39 saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. And he answering said to them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the  
 40 sign of the prophet Jonah: † For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of

\* Matt. xvi. 1; Luke xi. 16, 29. † Jonah ii. 1.

evil, so is the tree also. *For the tree is known by its fruit*—As if he had said, Ye may therefore know me by my fruits. By my converting sinners to God, you may know that God hath sent me.

Verse 34. In another kind likewise, *the tree is known by its fruit*—Namely, the heart by the conversation.

Verse 36. Ye may perhaps think, God does not so much regard your words. *But I say to you*—That not for blasphemous and profane words only, but *for every idle word which men shall speak*—For want of seriousness or caution, for every discourse which is not conducive to the glory of God, *they shall give account in the day of judgment*.

Verse 37. *For by thy words* (as well as thy tempers and works) *thou shalt* then be either acquitted or condemned. Your words as well as actions shall be produced in evidence for or against you, to prove whether you was a true believer or not. And according to that evidence you will either be acquitted or condemned in the great day.

Verse 38. *We would see a sign*—Else we will not believe this.

Verse 39. *An adulterous generation*—Whose heart wanders from God, though they profess him to be their husband. Such adulterers are all those who love the world, and all who seek the friendship of it. *Seeketh a sign*—After all they have had already, which were abundantly sufficient to convince them, had not their hearts been estranged from God, and consequently averse to the truth. *The sign of Jonah*—Who was herein a type of Christ.

Verse 40. *Three days and three nights*—It was customary with the eastern nations, to reckon any part of a natural day of twenty-four hours for the whole day. Accordingly they used to say, a thing was done after three or seven days, if it was done on the third or seventh day from that which was last mentioned. Instances of this may be seen 1 Kings xx 29; and in many other places. And as the Hebrews had no word to