

## Discerner of Hearts

John 2:23-25

**Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.<sup>[a]</sup><sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.<sup>25</sup> He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.**

### Textual Point:

**Jesus would not entrust himself to people because he knew the deeply sinful condition of their hearts.**

### Thus we see that:

- 1. Jesus Christ knows what is in human hearts.**
- 2. Heart-discerning is a mark of deity.**
- 3. Jesus died for us in spite of our wicked hearts.**
- 4. Jesus transforms wicked hearts to God-pleasing hearts.**
- 5. Jesus knows our hearts all the time.**

## Review and Introduction

**John**, the beloved apostle and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, tells us why he wrote his gospel account of the life of Jesus in chapter 20, verse 31 of his gospel: "But these are written that you may believe<sup>[a]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John recorded various "signs" –miracles that Christ performed. He wrote so that all men might know who Jesus Christ really is: - he is the Son of God, sent from heaven by God the Father to rescue a people for himself out of this sinful world. **The means** of rescuing them from their sins would be his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead.

Up to this point in John's gospel we have already seen strong evidence as to the true identity of Jesus: besides John the apostle's own description of his eternal existence with the Father and then his incarnation, we have seen John the Baptist's affirmation that he was the Messiah of God. We've seen Jesus' ability to discern human nature in his words to Nathanael – "I saw you under the fig tree..." . We've seen him change water into the high quality wine at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. We've seen him cleansing the temple, driving out the marketers and profiteers. And in reference to the temple in Jerusalem, we've heard him say that he would raise up the temple of his body 3 days after its destruction.

So if we had nothing else to go on, what has been presented so far in just the first two chapters of John's Gospel calls for some serious consideration on our part as to the person of Jesus Christ. If what is said about him is true, then we

are dealing with a revelation, a person, a treasure, of tremendous importance and value for each of us.

Let us now consider the text before us.

**:23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name.**

The implication here, especially in view of the two verses that follow, is that many people were impressed with the miracles and believed in him in a superficial sense. John Calvin says, “It was a cold belief, a persuasion empty of any serious attitude of heart...it is not a true believing when they are amazed at God’s power in such a way as merely to believe that the teaching is true without subjecting themselves to it wholly.”<sup>1</sup>

These people heard and saw some of Christ’s miracles, and said, “Oh, this is pretty amazing. Maybe this man is a prophet, or even the Messiah....” but they weren’t ready to submit to his Lordship or follow him in any serious kind of way.

**<sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.**

But Jesus saw their hearts, he discerned their real motivation: it was a sort of temporary fascination... but no lasting commitment on their part. They saw the signs and recognized that there was something special, something unusual about Jesus – but that is as far as they went. Some commentators have summarized these verses in this way: “he did not believe their believing.”

Then there is this quite amazing statement that is repeated in the following verse: “for he knew all men; *he knew what was in man.*”

As Proverb 21:2 says, “All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.” So Jesus saw their hearts and weighed them, examined them, and found them lacking.

He knew the inner recesses of these people’s hearts better than they knew themselves. We can deceive others as to what’s in our hearts; we can even deceive ourselves. But, as Calvin says, “Christ knew the very roots of the trees; but we can only know the nature of any individual tree from the outward fruits.”<sup>2</sup> Christ knows the very core of every man or woman – what makes them tick, what drum beat they march to, what is their true motivation for the things they do, what it is that really drives them in life. He knows what they are devoted to, what they long for, what they strive for – in essence, what is most important to them – what they worship, what their idols are....

---

<sup>1</sup> Calvin, John. *The Gospel According to St. John*. Translated by T.H.L. Parker, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1961, p. 58

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 59

We see only the outward; we may guess at the inward – but only God knows for sure, and only God knows perfectly. He has infallible and complete knowledge of what drives you – he knows this even better than you do.

**<sup>25</sup> He did not need man’s testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.**

In his commentary on John Gerald Borchert notes: “...he was not fooled by the well intentioned words of believing. He understood the nature of human frailty, and he did not require instruction (testimony) concerning human inconsistency...the Son of God did not need any lesson in the results of human sin. Human sin was the reason why the Son of God came to the world...”<sup>3</sup>

This is our text today and though it is only a few verses, what it teaches us about the Lord Jesus Christ is very important. These verses were written by the apostle John, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and given to the church that we might learn of Christ and believe in him.

The first point I want to focus on is this:

### **1. Jesus Christ knows what is in human hearts.**

I think it will be helpful for us if we look at some key texts in the 4 gospels that show us several concrete examples where we see that Jesus knew what was in people’s hearts:

#### **Matt. 9:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. <sup>2</sup> Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>3</sup> At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”

<sup>4</sup> **Knowing their thoughts**, Jesus said, <sup>5</sup> “Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’” <sup>6</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” Then he said to the paralytic, <sup>7</sup> “Get up, take your mat and go home.” <sup>8</sup> And the man got up and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

**Mark 2:8’s** statement of this incident: Immediately **Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts.**

The English Standard Version translates this verse like this:

---

<sup>3</sup> Brochert, Gerald. *The New American Commentary, John 1-11*. Broadman & Holman, 1996, p.168.

**Mark 2:8**

And immediately Jesus, **perceiving in his spirit** that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your **hearts**?"

**Matt. 12:22-26** (Lu. 11:17-20)

<sup>22</sup> Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. <sup>23</sup> All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

<sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, <sup>[a]</sup> the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

<sup>25</sup> **Jesus knew their thoughts** and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?"

After telling the parable of the sower and telling why he often taught in parables, Jesus said:

**Matt. 13:15**

For this people's **heart has become calloused**;

they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.

(This is a quote from Isaiah 6:9, 10)

**Matt. 15:18-20**

But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' <sup>19</sup> **For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.** <sup>20</sup> **These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'**"

**Mark 3:4-6**

<sup>4</sup>And he said to them, <sup>(A)</sup> "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>And he <sup>(B)</sup> looked around at them with anger, **grieved at <sup>(C)</sup> their hardness of heart**, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." <sup>(D)</sup> He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6(E)</sup> The Pharisees

went out and immediately<sup>(E)</sup> held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

### **Mark 7:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?”

<sup>6</sup> He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor me with their lips,  
but **their hearts are far from me.**

<sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are but rules taught by men.<sup>[a]</sup>

(Jesus is quoting from Isa. 29:13)

### **Luke 9:46-48**

An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. <sup>47</sup> But Jesus, **knowing the reasoning of their hearts**, took a child and put him by his side <sup>48</sup> and said to them, <sup>(B)</sup> “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and <sup>(C)</sup> whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

### **Jo. 1:48**

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, “**How<sup>(A)</sup> do you know me?**” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

### **John 5:42**

but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

### **John 6:58-61**

Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

**Aware that his disciples were grumbling** about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? NIV

<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, <sup>(A)</sup> **knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this**, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ESV.

The original Greek states plainly, “*in himself.*” It was in the mind of Jesus Christ – nowhere else – he knew, no one else knew, but he did. He knew the disciples were grumbling.

**John 6:64**

Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” **For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.**

The second point I want us to see today is that...

**2. Heart-discerning is a mark of deity.**

Only God can see into the human heart and know exactly what is there. Let’s look at a few scriptures that confirm this point.

This is really a practical application of God’s attribute of **omniscience**: God knows all things.

**1 Kings 8:37-40** (from Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem):

<sup>37</sup> “When famine or plague comes to the land, or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers, or when an enemy besieges them in any of their cities, whatever disaster or disease may come, <sup>38</sup> and when a prayer or plea is made by any of your people Israel—each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart, and spreading out his hands toward this temple— <sup>39</sup> then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive and act; deal with each man according to all he does, **since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of all men),** <sup>40</sup> so that they will fear you all the time they live in the land you gave our fathers.

**2 Chron. 16:9**

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those<sup>(B)</sup> whose **heart is blameless** toward him.

**Psa. 19:12**

Who can discern his errors?

<sup>(W)</sup> Declare me innocent from<sup>(X)</sup> hidden faults.

**Psa. 19:14**

<sup>4</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my<sup>(AB)</sup> rock and my<sup>(AC)</sup> redeemer.**

**Psa. 33:13-15**

<sup>13</sup>The LORD<sup>(A)</sup> looks down from heaven;  
he sees all the children of man;  
<sup>14</sup>from<sup>(B)</sup> where he sits enthroned he<sup>(C)</sup> looks out  
on all the inhabitants of the earth,  
<sup>15</sup>he **who fashions the hearts of** them all  
and observes all their deeds.

**Psa. 90:8**

You have<sup>(A)</sup> set our iniquities before you,  
our<sup>(B)</sup> secret sins in the light of your presence.

**Jer. 16:1**

For<sup>(A)</sup> my eyes are on all their ways.<sup>(B)</sup> They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.

**Jer. 17:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> **The heart is deceitful above all things  
and beyond cure.**

**Who can understand it?**

<sup>10</sup> **"I the LORD search the heart  
and examine the mind,**

**Acts 1:24**

Then they prayed, "Lord, **you know everyone's heart**. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry,

**1 Cor. 3:20**

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

**Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Heb. 4:13** - Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything is uncovered and laid bare** before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

So we see that the scriptures are clear and plain in both the OT and NT that it is God alone who can peer into the inner recesses of the human heart and see what is really there. Man cannot do this; we often do not even understand our own hearts. Certainly apart from the revelation of the Scriptures we would not understand how God sees our hearts, we would not understand how wicked and rebellious and stubborn and selfish our own hearts are.

In the OT we see that it is Yahweh who does the spiritual examination of human hearts and finds them displeasing to him. The X-ray of God reveals that the cancer of sin has engulfed and consumed the human heart.

In the NT we see that the Lord Jesus Christ demonstrates time and again that he has the same penetrating view that Yahweh does in the OT. **"He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man."**

By demonstrating this attribute of deity, of God, Jesus is manifesting who he really is: he is God who has come and taken up our flesh and lived among us. He

was fully human and therefore it was impossible to know that he was also God, except as we begin to observe his works and his words. When we put all the evidence together – we have someone here who is more than a human being; he is doing things, he is perceiving things, his knowledge of specific human beings and what is in their hearts and thoughts is something that is supernatural – a man or woman could not do this. But Jesus did this. His discernment of the human heart is exactly of the same ability that Yahweh had among his people in the OT. Jesus' discernment of the human heart is an aspect of the divine attribute of omniscience – God knows all things.

Now Christ's knowledge of all things was not absolute in his incarnation – he voluntarily limited his knowledge, for example, as to when his return, his second Advent, would take place. He said that only the Father knows this. But Christ's insight and knowledge of human hearts was and is a supernatural ability – only God can do this. Therefore, we have here in this one ability of the Lord Jesus, strong evidence of his divine nature: he was indeed God who had become man. It was, if you please, another type of "sign," another evidence that this carpenter from Nazareth was much more than a carpenter, he was the "Word who became flesh and dwelt among us."

**The third point I want to bring out today is that...**

### **3. Jesus died for us in spite of our wicked hearts.**

This is most amazing. If God were totally just and righteous but lacking in mercy, he would be justified in wiping out the human race when he looked into our hearts and he sees all the self-serving, self-glorifying motives that consume and govern our lives. He would see the paltry or non-existent love for himself, the paltry or non-existent desire to bring him glory, the law breaking, and all the other sins that permeate and captivate our humanity and he would be right to just go ahead and destroy all of us ungrateful wretches who would prefer to live and speak and think like we want to, instead of the way the holy, perfect God want us to be and think and say.

But listen to the word of the Gospel:

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Rom. 5:6-8**

This is most amazing. God, looking at how wicked our hearts are, decides to rescue us from our sinful nature, send his Son to die on the cross to be a substitute for the wrath we deserve, and then to send the Holy Spirit who enables us to repent of our sins and believe the Gospel – and then he begins to change



our hearts by His Spirit working his transforming Word in us by conforming us more and more into the image of Jesus Christ.

So what happens is the fourth point this morning:

#### **4. Jesus transforms wicked hearts to God-pleasing hearts.**

This is the great promise found in Ezekiel's prophecy and which the writer to the Hebrews applies to believers:

##### **Hebrews 8:10:**

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their **hearts**, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jesus can change our wicked thoughts, musings, and motives to make them godly, unselfish, and glorifying to God. Only he can do this; we do not have the desire or power to do this ourselves.

There is only one power on earth that can change a wicked human heart: the power of the risen Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, as he works within his people by the power of the Holy Spirit that he sends from heaven.

There is a final point I'd like to bring out:

#### **5. Jesus knows our hearts all the time**

The Scottish Puritan George Hutcheson wrote (in the 17<sup>th</sup> century):

“Christ infallibly knows what is inmost or most secret and hidden in man, the thought of which should excite everyone to self-examination, and be an encouragement to the sincere.”<sup>4</sup>

So, knowing that Christ knows our hearts all the time, should spur us to examine our hearts, to guard our hearts from sin, to resist temptation that would seek to bring sin into our hearts. We should repent when we become aware that sin has entered our heart.

But we should take encouragement because no matter what trial, temptation, suffering, or extreme difficulty we may be experiencing, the Lord Jesus knows our hearts, he sympathizes with us, he comforts us, and he strengthens us.

---

<sup>4</sup> Hutcheson, George. *John, A Geneva Series Commentary*. Banner of Truth Trust. (1<sup>st</sup> published in 1657), p. 40.

Jesus is the master Discerner and Diagnostician and Healer and Restorer of the human heart.

He came for this very purpose, to give us a new heart, a heart that pleases him. Keep the door of your heart always open to him. Let his grace and truth fill you continuously, and you will know the joy of salvation that is in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jeff Gregory  
Good Shepherd Community Church  
Dallas, TX  
USA  
02-27-11

4. 5. May Christ be pleased with what he sees in our thoughts, musings, and meditations.

Mark 12:30

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Mark 12:32-34

<sup>32</sup>And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that<sup>(A)</sup> he is one, and<sup>(B)</sup> there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup>And to love him with all the heart and with all<sup>(C)</sup> the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself,<sup>(D)</sup> is much more than all<sup>(E)</sup> whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup>And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."<sup>(E)</sup> And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

### **Mark 16:14**

[ *The Great Commission* ] Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of **heart**, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

Cf fruits of the Holy Spirit: Gal. 5: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control...

John 7:

<sup>37</sup><sup>(A)</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, <sup>(B)</sup> "If anyone thirsts, let him<sup>(C)</sup> come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, <sup>(D)</sup> as<sup>(a)</sup> the Scripture has said, <sup>(E)</sup> 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of<sup>(F)</sup> living water.'" <sup>39</sup>Now<sup>(G)</sup> this he said about the Spirit, <sup>(H)</sup> whom those who believed in him were to receive, <sup>(I)</sup> for as yet the Spirit had not been<sup>(J)</sup> given, <sup>(K)</sup> because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### · **Acts 13:22**

And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he

testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my own heart.'

### [Acts 15:8](#)

And God, who knows the **heart**, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,

### [Acts 16:14](#)

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her **heart** to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

### [Romans 1:24](#)

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their **hearts** to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves

### [Romans 5:5](#)

and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our **hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Rom. 8:27

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit...

### [1 Corinthians 4:5](#)

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the **heart**. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

### [2 Corinthians 3:3](#)

And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human **hearts**.

### [2 Corinthians 4:6](#)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our **hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

### [Galatians 4:6](#)

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our **hearts**, crying, "Abba! Father!"

### [Ephesians 1:18](#)

having the eyes of your **hearts** enlightened, that you may know what is the hope

to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

**Ephesians 3:17**

so that Christ may dwell in your **hearts** through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love

**1 Thessalonians 3:13**

so that he may establish your **hearts** blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Hebrews 10:22**

let us draw near with a true **heart** in full assurance of faith, with our **hearts** sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Revelation 2:23**

and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and **heart**, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

1. **Jesus Christ knows what is in human hearts.**
2. **Heart-discerning is a mark of deity.**
3. **Jesus died for people with wicked hearts.**
4. **Jesus transforms wicked hearts to God-pleasing hearts.**
5. **Jesus knows our hearts better than we do.**

---

Matt. 12:33-35

<sup>33(A)</sup> "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, <sup>(B)</sup> for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34(C)</sup> You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, <sup>(D)</sup> when you are evil? <sup>(E)</sup> **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** <sup>35(E)</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

**Marks of Christ's deity up to this point**

**Donald Guthrie:** "he knew all men" "draws attention to a supernatural knowledge of human motives....the Nicodemus incident which immediately follows this illustrates the statement." NBC

**AW Pink's comment on v.24-5:** "Here we are shown the Savior's perfect knowledge of the human heart."

**John 16:30**

<sup>30</sup>Now we know that<sup>(A)</sup> you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that<sup>(B)</sup> you came from God."

### Luke 16:15

And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your **hearts**. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

Link between Father and Son:

Jo. 5:19

<sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

### **Rom. 5:8**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### 1 Corinthians 2:11

For who knows a person's **thoughts** except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the **thoughts** of God except the Spirit of God.

### Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in **heart**, for they shall see God.

### Mark 16:14

[ *The Great Commission* ] Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of **heart**, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

### **Luke 6:44-46**

<sup>44</sup>for<sup>(A)</sup> each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup>The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces<sup>(C)</sup> evil,<sup>(D)</sup> for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.