

## MADE ALIVE: To Speak the Words of God

Pastor Brandon Zieske

Text: Matthew 12:33-37; John 6:26-69

The heart and the mouth are connected. Matthew 12:33-37

Our words reveal our heart. Proverbs 18:20-21; Romans 10:6-13

Our new lives are dependent on God.

1 Peter 2:2; Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:2-4; John 15:4-6

We get to eat and enjoy the Word.

Ezekiel 3:3; Jeremiah 15:16; Rev. 10:9-10; Isaiah 31:4

Jesus is the word. John 1:1-2, 14; Revelation 19:12-13; John 6:26-58

God's word reveals His heart. John 6:60-63

As we eat the Word, we will speak the words of God.

Words of Faith -

Words of Hope -

Words of Love -

Words of Life -

## Food for Thought for the week of October 4, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Tell about a diet that you've tried that will amuse the group.

3. Have you tried limiting or changing your spiritual "eating habits"? With what success? How does "garbage in, garbage out" come into play? What is garbage to you? Has culture influenced that? In other words, has your definition of garbage changed over the years? And consequently, have you allowed more garbage in?

4. In Matthew 15:1,15-20, Jesus talks with His disciples about what defiles an individual. He uses the heart and mouth analogy. Read and discuss this passage. Read Proverbs 4:12. In light of this passage, what is one area of your life in which you need to watch over your heart more diligently? What has God already done in you along that line?

5. God's Word is often referred to as bread. One biblical picture of the Trinity is: the Father is the speaker (1 Kings 18:24-46, Psalms 115:5-8, 135:15-18, Habakkuk 2:18-20, 1 Corinthians 12:2); the Son is the Word He speaks (John 1:1-14, Romans 10:6-8, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 1:1-3, 1 John 1:1-3, Revelations 19:13); and the Spirit is the breath that carries that Word to its destination (Psalm 33:6). Discuss this idea.

6. John 15 is a beautiful chapter that tells about our relationship with Jesus. Read verses 1-16 and then note the abide (or remain) verses. What's involved in abiding? As a branch on Christ's vine, how would you describe the fruit in your life: A.) Grade A-1? B.) Juicy? C.) Green? D.) Wormy? How do your words reflect that? In light of John 15, what is our part in speaking words of faith and hope and love?

**Application:** At the end of John 6, many of Jesus' disciples said, "This is a hard teaching." They turned back and no longer followed Him. Instead, let's be like Peter who answered Jesus, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."