

A Clarification

In today's message from Malachi 2:17, "A Stupid Prayer: The Unjust Praying for Justice," I said something that I want to clarify. In the message I talked about how messed up our self-perception is. I primarily discussed how the majority of lost people in America believe that since their good outweighs their bad they deserve to go to heaven. I discussed the fact that the Scriptures teach that no one's good outweighs their bad. In fact, the Scripture teach that "every inclination and thought of the heart is only evil continually" (*Genesis 6:5*).

Well, in the course of discussing this I was trying to express how wrongheaded such an assertion is—how wrongheaded it is for an unbeliever to think that their good outweighs their bad. I said something to the effect of this, "This is the thinking of a lunatic." I realize that I will misspeak much in my preaching, but right when I said the word "lunatic," I said in my mind, "Ohhh, that was not the word I was looking for." Not only was the use of the word "lunatic" inappropriate, but it didn't even come close to capturing the thought that I was trying to convey.

If I had it to do over I would have said, "This is the thinking of a person whose heart has become so corrupted and twisted by sin that they cannot even discern themselves. This is the thinking of a sin-sick person, a person who needs to be born of God." On a further note, I would also have decided to not use the phrase "off their rocker." This may be true in a spiritual sense, but the word "lunatic" and the phrase "off their rocker" just didn't communicate clearly what I was trying to convey. This is an instance not of ill will (nor of a lack of preparation), but of slow thinking on my behalf. I just wanted to clarify that point. I do not want to use words like "lunatic," and especially when they do not even communicate the point I am trying to get at. Anyway, I hope that makes sense. Please email me if you need further clarification.

Thanks,
Jimmy Snowden