

INTRODUCTION & REVIEW: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR WORDS

- A. Words are significant because it is an issue of the heart. Every idle word will need to be accounted for on the day of judgment.

Matthew 12:34-37 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

- B. Words have the power to bring death or life in the course of our lives.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

I. WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO RELEASE LIFE

- A. Words have the power to bring life, joy, and wisdom into our lives. Our words should reveal wisdom (Col. 4:6), be temperate and controlled (Prov. 10:19-21; Psa. 141:3), and to strengthen us and others (1 Sam. 30:6).
1. God responds to the words that we pray. When you pray, say. Perhaps this is stating the obvious, but it is a profound mystery and privilege that we are granted unlimited access to speak to our Father in heaven through Jesus Christ. He also calls us to declare and prophesy in faith (Mark 11:23; Mark 4:39; Luke 11:2).
Luke 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven,
 2. We are saved when we believe with our heart and *confess* with our mouth:
*Romans 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (c.f. Psa. 19:14)*
 3. When we are filled with Spirit, we speak and sing (Acts 2). This is one outward sign of the inward work of the Holy Spirit. This is also the path to receiving the fullness of the Spirit. Be filled, so speak and sing? OR Speak and sing and you are filled (1 Cor. 14:2 4; Eph. 5:18-21; Jude 20).

Eph. 5:18-21 **And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

Acts 2:3-4 **Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

4. Our words can bring glory and pleasure to God (Psa. 19:14).

II. WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO BRING DEATH

- A. This passage almost makes you want to crawl into a hole and never say another word again!

James 3:1-11 **My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.³ Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.**

See how great a forest a little fire kindles!⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?

1. If we can master our words, we will master our entire body.
2. “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me?” Most people find out that it’s not true. Words represent the heart of a person. Words can make us feel rejected, belittled, or betrayed.
3. Words can break our hearts. Make our blood boil. Keep us up at nights. Perhaps a more insightful statement is: “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will *always* hurt me?” Once you put words out there, you can’t take them back.

III. DO NOT JUDGE WITH IMPURE HEARTS

Matthew 7:1-2 **Judge not, that you be not judged.² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.**

- A. Jesus is speaking of a particular kind of judging. We rightly judge things in nearly every situation in life – relationships, friendships, dating, business... Jesus is not saying that we will receive retribution for appraisals from a heart of understanding. That is wisdom and discernment (c.f. heavenly vs. earthly/demonic wisdom – James 3:13-18).
- B. Jesus is interested in the issues of the heart. When you judge others an with impure heart – with bitterness, condemnation, anger, envy, jealousy, pride – then God’s laws are set in motion and you will receive judgment and life will not go well for you.
- C. Inner vows are determinations that we make as children. These are programmed into us and then we forget about them. We sow and then years later, we reap them. E.g. “I will never be like that to my kids when I grow up.”

Galatians 6:7-10 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

- 1. A second or third child may make a vow never to wear hand-me-downs again, and then later in life have a compulsion to buy new things and can’t seem to stop.
- 2. A child might have been embarrassed in public and makes a vow to never speak in public again, and later on in life, cannot pray or read scripture in public.
- 3. Perhaps it is something more serious that comes from abuse or neglect. Even when parents discipline their children with the best of intentions, children do not always understand and mistake it for abuse or neglect. Then children judge their parents.
- D. Judgments often arise out of bitterness. They are rooted in bitterness and bring defilement to people and to situations.
 - 1. e.g. A young woman in a relationship with the wrong man will say: “I will never be in a relationship with *that* kind of person again.” (fill in the blank: drinks, gambles, etc). She judges him out of an impure heart because of her pain and bitterness. In the next relationship she is in, she makes sure the guy is not like the previous one and he isn’t, but after they get married, he turns into the type of person that she judged because her man and the situation are defiled by the root of bitterness.

Hebrews 12:15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.

- E. Be aware of ungodly pacts and covenants. Some secret societies, brotherhoods, and groups like the Freemasons, make covenants and pacts that can have spiritual consequences.
- F. Blessings and curses can have prophetic significance in the Bible (Gen. 49; Num. 23-24).
Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")
- G. There is power in the blood of Jesus to cover us. Get the blood of Jesus involved.
 - 1. Repent and renounce any sin.

2. Forgive anyone who has sinned against you.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

IV. THE BLOOD OF JESUS HAS POWER TO NEUTRALIZE DEFILING AND DESTRUCTIVE WORDS

- A. Harsh and Hasty words that lack restraint can bring destruction.

Proverbs 29:20 Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

1. Words can be hurtful and make us feel rejected, belittled, or betrayed.
2. Words can bring life, so ask the Lord to help you speak life-giving words.

Prov. 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;

3. Ask the Lord to set a guard over your mouth. Be aware of what comes out of the door of your lips.

Psa. 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

4. e.g. parents speaking over their children in the heat of their anger and frustration: "You will never amount to anything! You are so stupid! Can't you ever do anything right?!" Or perhaps it's more subtle or sarcastic.
5. Speak life over your children, over your spouse, over church, over governmental leaders.

Mark 10:13-16 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." ¹⁶ And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

- B. Lying

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

- C. Obscene speech, indecent or off-color jokes have no place in the believer's life.

Ephesians 5:4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Matthew 15:11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

CONCLUSION & APPLICATION:

It's easy to walk away from a message like this and say: Oh, I'm going to change and improve. Stop! It will not work for more than a few days. The solution is to go to God.

John 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

A. Meditate on the words of God. Your life is there. You will not be transformed by looking within your own life patterns for answers. Look to the Lord.

1. The cross of Christ is not just something that Jesus did for you. It also signifies how you view your life as a follower of Christ.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

2. We are to consider that as dead, our old nature.

Rom. 6:11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. Don't ignore the issues of your heart. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Go to the source. The heart is the source. Apply the blood of Jesus. If your words reveal that not all is okay, then ask the Lord to reveal to you what you need to bring under the blood of Christ. Forgive and be forgiven.

C. Count the old man as dead (sometimes, it's habits of speaking, thinking, or feeling). Be renewed in your mind. Be renewed in your thinking and speaking (Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:10).

D. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:18-19 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

E. Ask the Lord to set a guard over your mouth. This must be done after the previous steps. This is not a technique or a "game" that you are playing. Once Jesus is Lord, then our hearts are transformed and our words will follow.

Psa. 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

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