

DARK SIDE OF WORDS

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For the last few weeks we've been talking about the Heart and Mouth Connection.

Last week — Beware of Idle Words (worthless ... careless). Jesus said "By your word you'll be justified or condemned".

So we saw that our words are very important — special to human beings.

Although animals ... birds ... whales — communicate — barks ... whistles ... grunts ... speech and words are limited to man. It appears to be a God-like characteristic. God made man in His image and likeness.

God spoke the world into being by words — Genesis Chapter 1.

It is important that we pay attention to our words ... and the quality of them.

And be aware of the danger that can exist — The Dark Side of our words.

Matthew 12:34-37

34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (*Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks or leaks*)

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. (*Idle words = worthless or careless words*)

37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

On Judgment Day — it will be too late. Be aware ... now is the time to consider our words! Our words reveal what is in our hearts.

Proverbs 18:21

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Our words can be life or death:

- Encourage people ... build up ... comfort ... inspire
- Criticise people ... demean ... cruel

We speak a lot — thousands of words per day.

There are plenty of opportunities to use our words for good or bad — every day. We need to be aware of what we are saying. Today is when we need to sort out what we are saying.

Proverbs 15:28

**28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer,
But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.**

The righteous studies how to answer — or even whether to answer!
Sometimes the vocabulary of silence is necessary.

We should engage our brain before opening our mouths. Some situations are more important than others.

Today ... I want to focus on the Dark Side of Words.

Psalms 52:1-5

1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man?

The goodness of God endures continually.

2 Your tongue devises destruction,

Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

3 You love evil more than good,

Lying rather than speaking righteousness.

Selah

4 You love all devouring words,

You deceitful tongue.

5 God shall likewise destroy you forever;

He shall take you away, and pluck you out of your dwelling place,
And uproot you from the land of the living.

Selah

The tongue devises destruction like a sharp razor — cutting — and can leave scars.

The tongue can wound.

There is an old saying: “Sticks and stones may break my bones ... but words will never hurt me”. That is not true!

Psalms 64:1-8

1 Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation;
Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

2 **Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,
From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity,**

3 **Who sharpen their tongue like a sword,
And bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words,**

4 **That they may shoot in secret at the blameless;
Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.**

5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter;
They talk of laying snares secretly;
They say, “Who will see them?”

6 They devise iniquities:
“We have perfected a shrewd scheme.”

Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep.

7 But God shall shoot at them with an arrow;
Suddenly they shall be wounded.

8 **So He will make them stumble over their own tongue;
All who see them shall flee away.**

A tongue like a sword. Words like arrows.

Swords are used in close combat. Arrows can be fired from a distance — that you may not even know who fired them.

Note the type of language scripture is using of words — razors ... swords ... arrows — hurtful weapons! THIS IS THE DARK SIDE OF WORDS.

We may not always be perfect at controlling our words (especially under pressure) ... but we should be watchful ... and working to improve if we have a problem in this area.

Psalms 57:1-4

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!
For my soul trusts in You;
And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,
Until these calamities have passed by.

2 I will cry out to God Most High,
To God who performs all things for me.

3 He shall send from heaven and save me;
He reproaches the one who would swallow me up.

Selah

God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.

4 **My soul is among lions;**
I lie among the sons of men
Who are set on fire,

Whose teeth are spears and arrows,
And their tongue a sharp sword.

Spears ... arrows ... sharp sword.

These are weapons. They can hurt ... injure — even kill!

Proverbs 12:17-22

17 **He who speaks truth declares righteousness,**
But a false witness, deceit.

18 **There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword,**
But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

19 **The truthful lip shall be established forever,**
But a lying tongue is but for a moment.

20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil,
But counsellors of peace have joy.

21 **No grave trouble will overtake the righteous,**
But the wicked shall be filled with evil.

22 **Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,**
But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Speaks like the piercings of a sword. Lies and deceit — like gossip?

No doubt words can hurt. Scars can last for years.

Even in Church ... some are very quick to offer “necessary correction” (at least to their minds) ... and have wounded — damaged relationships.

It affected the Birmingham England Church many years ago. The minister gave a complete message to the Church in an attempt to stop it. Too many people at Church were “Mote Hunters” (Matthew Chapter 7)!

They made it their task to correct others.

If “corrected” in this manner ... we were to respond “O.R.” — Odious Remark!

If using a sharp razor ... we would take great care. Our tongues too?

Scripture repeatedly tells us to take care!

Proverbs 15:1-2, 4

1 **A soft answer turns away wrath,**

But a harsh word stirs up anger.

2 **The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly,**

But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

4 **A wholesome tongue is a tree of life,**

But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Harsh or calming? We choose.

If we're conscious that our words can hurt and wound ... hopefully we will take more care?

Study how to answer. Be slow to speak. Bridle our tongues. Avoid hasty words.

Especially important when under pressure.

Proverbs 16:32

32 **He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,**

And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 16:32 (NCV)

32 **Patience is better than strength. Controlling your temper is better than capturing a city.**

That's the Heart and Mouth Connection.

Ephesians 4:17-18

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, **that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,**

18 having their understanding darkened, **being alienated from the life of God,** because of the ignorance that is in them, **because of the hardening of their heart;**

Don't imitate the world.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 that you **put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,**

23 **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,**

24 **and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.**

Put off the old — put on the new.

Ephesians 4:29-32

29 **Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.**

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by which you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 **Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.** *(Put off all of these horrible ways of using your tongue)*

32 And **be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

Replace bad with good.

Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)

29 **Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth**

Ephesians 4:29 New Life Version (NLV)

29 **Watch your talk!** **No bad words should be coming from your mouth.**

Ephesians 5:2-4

2 **And walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

3 **But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;**

4 **neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, (talking of our tongues)** but rather giving of thanks.

“Walk in love” includes the words that we use.

Others translations bring out: No obscenity ... silly corrupt talk ... vulgar talk ... out of the heart.

Colossians 3:1-11

1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.**

2 **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 **Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to **put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.**

9 **Do not lie to one another**, since you have **put off** the old man with his deeds,

10 and **have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,**

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Paul repeats this here. It's important.

Put to death = eliminate ... put off.

Our words should reflect that we are Christians ... followers of Christ.
Encouraging and kind.

Not hasty ... critical ... judgmental ... prone to gossip.

Our words shouldn't be likened to weapons — razors ... swords ... arrows.

James 1:26

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, **and does not bridle his tongue** but deceives his own heart, **this one's religion is useless.**

Bridle your tongue. Only necessary if we're teetering to the dark side?

Proverbs 6:16-19

16 **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.

God hates!! Lying tongue. A false witness who speaks lies. Sowing discord.

God is aware of our words. He hates some words! We may be accountable at the Judgment?

Psalms 19:14

14 **Let the words of my mouth** **and the meditation of my heart**
Be acceptable in Your sight,

O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

We want our words to be acceptable ... especially at the Judgment.

Our words are a Godly characteristic. Powerful. Potentially life-changing.

Death and Life are in the power of the tongue.

Keep watch! No O.R. No odious remarks.

Learn to avoid the Dark Side!