

31 - July 10 - 8:11

"WATCH WHAT YOU SAY"

Proverbs 18:17-21

INTRODUCTION:

Subject concerns us all.

A subject we usually admit is good for the other person!

Magazine advertisement - a tongue cleaner, makes ones mouth cleaner, fresher than it had ever been for \$3.98! I smiled when I read that.

By nature people talk a great deal and to spread information, old saying, all you need is a telephone, telegraph, or tell a woman.

Heard of being vaccinated with a phonograph needle.

There isn't a person alive who hasn't gotten into trouble because of something he or she has said.

Examine your present speech patterns.

Exchange bad speech habits for acceptable ones.

Eliminate unnecessary speech.

Many verses in the Bible devoted to the power of the tongue.

The Guide - prove acoustics of the high domed structure stood on platform of main hall and shouted:

→ "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet!"

Dr. Henrietta Mears asked if she might say something and when permission was granted, she ascended the steps and proclaimed in her low, powerful voice:

→ "Jesus Christ, Son of God, is Lord over all!"

Like peals of thunder rolling through the canyons and across the valleys of an Alpine Mountain range - "Lord over all, over all, over all."

That is persuasive speech.

→ Power - as Peter: once spoke foolishly - denying - but when tongue tamed - Preached Christ at Pentecost.

As Paul: Once spoke of murder etc. But tamed, spoke of Christ.

Use your tongue to (confess) Christ now!

WJ
Mrs. Don Kim of Korea - attended Southwestern Seminary - I heard her speak in Oklahoma.

Talked of her experience and it revealed to me the power of the tongue.

Upon her conversion - she met at night with Christians to study the Bible.

War was on, she felt led to go to Japan, Tokoyo, and witness to the Japanese war lords.

After planning and praying she arrived. Got into the legislative meeting and stood in the balcony and shouted her message from God and a warning of judgement.

"Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."

She was put into prison. Starvation.

Won some of the guards to Christ.

Lack of food, lost her hair, diseased.

Offered her freedom if she retracted faith in Christ. She refused.

Her execution was scheduled for noon-time, but she was delivered by American soldiers and the will of God.

Thrilling story of Don Kim - use of her tongue.

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I close with the story of Henrietta Mears, a great Christian teacher. Visiting the Taj Mahal in India.

Smaller bag, seldom seen, usually forgotten. Always empty.

All the wrongs of his neighbour was ever before him, his wrong went unnoticed, and unremembered.

What you feed upon is important.

V. LIFE AND DEATH HEREIN INVOLVED - V. 21B.

Literally in the hand of the tongue, to use symbolic language, the hand of the tongue deals forth life or death!

Controls man's destiny.

Expresses the way body and soul will go.

When your child makes D on algebra on runs out of gas two blocks from home!
Not the time to say "I told you so." Time for a positive contribution.

Tongue can speak words that God approves.

Tongue can bless God.

Feeding the conscience has to do with diet. A diet has some do's and don'ts.

1. Don't speak until you have thought about what you will say - ~~evaluate~~ the content.
2. Don't speak until you have thought about the effect of what you will say -- evaluate the results.
3. Do purposely try not talking when you badly want to. Weigh the benefits of silence versus speech.
4. Do use non-verbal communication smile, nod your head, take someone's hand.
5. Do state the positives before the negatives. Save the worst until last, you might not say it at all.
6. Do undertalk - become a person of fewer words.

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In mythology - when Jupiter made man he gave him 2 bags. Large and small.

One for his neighbour's faults - the other his own.

He selected the larger one for his neighbours and the smaller for self.

Tied with ords together, put them over his shoulder.

The little one on his back and the big one on his chest so he would have it before his eyes. Never out of sight, could look upon neighbour's faults.

✓ 11:13 - "He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets.

✓ 17:9 - "He who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

IV. FEEDING THE CONSCIENCE - V. 20-21A

Feed many - means feed conscience.

What do you feed upon?

Important what the conscience is filled with.

Somebody says, "but it is the truth; and the truth hurts no one."

✓ Lev. 19:16 - "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among Thy people."

"I Am the Lord's."

Commandment stands along with "Thou shalt not kill."

A buzzard can always find a carcass.

A fly can find a sore.

A hog can find a place to wallow in the mud.

A feud is usually long and sad, it is anger and love in reverse.

We ought to avoid trouble because:

1. Quarrels are unnatural among relatives.
Unbecoming - love turns to anger.
2. Great Pains to compromise matters in variance between relations.

These contentions are like bars in a castle - harder to break than those of a humble cottage.

They close the door against reconciliation.

Shut their hearts against tender feelings.

Esau - a brother offended, seemed harder to win than a city! Yet God's work and Jacob's prayer won.

3. Gossip is a common problem - would you call yourself a gossip?

Ohel... Visit, Preaching in church - Man came around "The sermon wasn't profound" "he" "way to long" "to loud" He just Repeat everything he heard

Pastor Don't pay any attention to him, he's a fool, not all pure intellectuals

Gossip is talebearing - repeating stories - secrets - slandering and talking

II. SETTLING DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY - V. 18

If there is a conflict - then the thing to do is settle.

Settle with a compromise.

Canaan divided by lot.

First - watch what you say, the content.

✓ 21:23 - "He who guards his mouth and his tongue guards his soul from troubles."

Guard is a military term meaning to stand watch. When a soldier is on guard he is alert, watching for enemy forces, and recognizes unknown danger in the background.

Put your mind in gear before you put your mouth into motion.

Second, you need to watch the way you speak, your manner and attitude of presentation. 15:28 - "The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."

Third, you need to watch when you speak - the timing - 15:23. "How delightful is a timely word."

III. OBSTACLES OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT - V. 19

Dangers and problems of settling a family feud!

A parent makes fools of themselves to defend and settle arguments between children in a broomstick baseball game.

A woman lost 10,000 on a quiz show because she tried to out-guess what the question would be and (answered) before the Master of Ceremonies completed his sentence. "How could I have been so stupid."

A talkative ladies aid session, ladies had over indulged in gossiping about people of the community. A young woman who had attended said, "I'm giving this group a new name -- "Ladies Raid Society". You have raided homes, and good names, and reputations!

✓ Prov. 29:20 - "Do you see a man who is hasty in words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

Oneside has separated husbands and wives produced wars, barriers between relatives, feuds in families, blackened the reputation of young girls, lying tongues have split churches, planted the germ of bitterness.

✓ Hear the other side:

1. In the true interest of the complainant.
2. It is due to the defendant.
3. It is due to ourselves.

Power to speak idle words.

✓ James 3:5-6 - "Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth; and the tongue is a fire, a world of inequity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature, and is set on fire of Hell."

Power to kindle a fire - sober words - set on fire of Hell - a tongue uncontrolled dangerous as TNT.

I. HEAR BOTH SIDES - V. 17

Most of us are unconcerned with listening to the other person - form our judgement from one side - not interested in the history of the thing.

So we speak out of turn. Proverbs calls that "hasty speech." 25:8.

· To defend yourself, he lacks creditability.

✓ First story is it! Settled, no other way. The hidden assassin shoots his arrow in the dark. The hyena that digs into the grave of the departed. The scavenger that drives his cart through the community.

Heard from (Dan to Bursheba.)

A bitter word dropped from our tongue is like that fox with a fire brand tied to its tail that Samson sent among the standing corn of the Philistines.

✓ Psa. 5:9 - "For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is wicked; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue."

Power for unrighteousness.

✓ Prov. 21:23 - "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble."

Power to produce trouble.

✓ Ex. 14:11 - "And they said unto Moses, because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

Power to complain.

✓ Judges 16:15 - "How cans't Thou say, I love Thee, when Thy heart is not with me?"
Deliah and Samson.

Power to deceive.

✓ I Sam. 17:43 - "And the Philestine cursed David by his gods." Goliath to David.

Power to curse God.

✓ Matt. 12:36 - "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement."