

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of the book of Proverbs, we have been considering some Pearls of Wisdom.
- * In various places in our study, we have seen the importance of our words. Last week, we began a three-week consideration of our communication by considering the challenge for us to not use our words to cause contention or strife.
- * The opposite of that would be to seek to edify, or build up, others ... rather than tearing them down.
- * Today, we will consider the verses that address this goal.
- * We begin with a reminder of how we ended last week: that we should pursue healthy discussions and peaceful resolutions. This is best accomplished by seeking to be other-focused with a Christ-like mind.
- * This is because words are important ... what we say can build up or destroy. They convey what is in the depths of the well of a man's heart.
Proverbs 18:4 **The words of a man's mouth are deep waters**; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.

INSTRUCTION

I. KNOWING WHAT TO SAY

A. The P_____

1. D_____ (cf. Colossians 4:6; Proverbs 10:31-32)

2. D_____ (cf. Proverbs 15:28; 25:11-12)

B. The P_____

1. TO E_____ (cf. Ephesians 4:29-30; Proverbs 10:20-21; 13:14; 16:23-24)

2. TO E_____ (cf. Proverbs 15:1-2; 12:18; 12:25; 15:4,7)

II. KNOWING WHAT NOT TO SAY (cf. Proverbs 10:11-14; 10:19; 11:13; 17:9)

INTROSPECTION

- * ARE YOU WORDS PRIMARILY EDIFYING OR DESTRUCTIVE?

DO YOU TEND TO BUILD PEOPLE UP, OR TEAR THEM DOWN?

- * ARE YOUR WORDS NORMALLY MEDICINAL OR POISONOUS?

DOES BEING IN YOUR COMPANY PROMOTE STRENGTH AND COURAGE, OR ANXIOUSNESS?

- * REMEMBER THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE OF CONSEQUENCES. THAT WHICH YOU SPEND YOUR TIME SOAKING YOURSELF, WILL BE WHAT COMES OUT WHEN YOU YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH!

ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE THE TIME TO INCREASE YOUR IN-TAKE OF GOD'S WORD?

- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read James 3:1 - 4:12. Last week, we discussed "Contentions" (and ultimately, our desire to avoid them) and this week how to use our communication to edify and encourage others. How, does James 3:1-4:12 apply to these topics and add to them?

H5042 naba - to gush; to bring out greatly

H5107 nub - to bring out

H4832 marpeh - curative; medicinal ... lit. m-rapha with healing

H3190 yatab - make well or good (tov); amend

H8055 samach - cheerful

Proverbs 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing (**H5042 naba**) brook.

KNOWING WHAT TO SAY

The Principles

D _____

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, **that you may know how you ought to answer** each one.

Proverbs 10:31-32 ³¹ The mouth of the righteous brings forth (**H5107 nub**) wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out. ³² The lips of the righteous **know what is acceptable** (H7522-ratson ... pleasing; delightful), but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

D _____

Proverbs 15:28 **The heart of the righteous studies** (H1897 hagah) **how to answer** (H6030 anah), but the mouth of the wicked pours forth (**H5042 naba**) evil.

Proverbs 25:11-12 ¹¹ A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. ¹² Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

The Practice

To E _____

Ephesians 4:29-30 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 whom you were sealed for the day of redemption

Proverbs 10:20-21 ²⁰ The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is worth little. ²¹ **The lips of the righteous feed** many, but fools die for lack of wisdom.

Proverbs 13:14 **The law (torah) of the wise** is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.

Proverbs 16:23-24 ²³ **The heart of the wise teaches** (H7919 sakal - prudence; circumspection) **his mouth, and adds learning** (H3948 leqakh) to his lips. (** *Literal ... The heart of the wise causes his mouth to be circumspect ... ***) ²⁴ Pleasant (no'om - agreeable) words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health (**H4832 marpeh**) to the bones.

To E _____

Proverbs 15:1-2 ¹ A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. ² The tongue of the wise uses knowledge **rightly** (**H3190 yatab**), but the mouth of fools pours forth (**H5042 naba**) foolishness.

Proverbs 15:13 A merry (**H8055 samakh**) heart makes a cheerful (**H3190 yatab**) countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry (**H8055 samakh**) heart does good (**H3190 yatab**), like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

Proverbs 12:18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but **the tongue of the wise promotes health.** (**H4832 marpeh**)

Proverbs 12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but **a good (tov) word makes it glad** (**H8055 samakh**).

Proverbs 15:4 **A wholesome** (**H4832 marpeh**) **tongue** is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Proverbs 15:7 The lips of the wise **disperse** knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.

KNOWING WHAT NOT TO SAY

Proverbs 10:11-14

¹¹ The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

¹² **Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.**

¹³ Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

¹⁴ Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But **he who restrains his lips is wise.**

Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful (aman) spirit conceals a matter.

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.