

Upcoming Events...
Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Business Meeting: Today at 4:30
Father's Day: June 17
Barnabas Group Meeting: June 26

Watch Your Language!

"For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:37

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Proverbs 15:1

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador 12 Celina Perales

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 9 Sue Tanner
11 Marcos & Celina Perales

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
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Thy Mouth

By Robert Notgrass

Many of our problems in life occur because we say the wrong thing, or we say it at the wrong time, or we say it in the wrong way. In fact, it has been shown that a thirty-second speech can damage a thirty-year career, a thirty-year marriage, or thirty years of reputation. Now, as Solomon wrote Proverbs, he was aware of the power of the tongue, and when we read his thoughts on this subject in Proverbs, we can find God's wisdom in small doses telling us to either shut up, build up or speak up.

There are some verses, in plain English that warns us to be cautious about what we say and to never miss an opportunity to keep our mouths shut. In Proverbs 17:9, 14, 27, "*...he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends . . . The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water . . . He that hath knowledge spareth his words...*" Solomon goes on to state "*He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace*" (Proverbs 11:12); and, "*Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth . . .*" (Proverbs 26:20-22). Thus, while certain things are necessary for life: food, water, protection; some things are not necessary, such as stating our opinions on every subject or having the last word in every argument or demanding our way in every discussion or defending ourselves from every criticism or drawing a line on every issue. Sometimes, we just need to keep our thoughts and words to ourselves.

Next, there are things that build us up. God hasn't called us to take vows of silence like medieval monks. He gave us the remarkable capacity for human language because He wants us to build others up. In Proverbs 10:11, 19, Solomon states, "*The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life...he that refraineth his lips is wise.*" Solomon goes on to state that tongues of the wise is health (Proverbs 12:18), pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones (Proverbs 16:23-24) and, "*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life . . . and a word spoken in due*

season, how good is it!” (Proverbs 15:4, 23). Sometimes, we need to take a train, track down someone, buy them a steak and encourage them with wise counsel. All people need wholesome words and by speaking that builds up, we will revive those who are dead in sin, we will comfort those who are in distress, by which, we can show the way to eternal life.

Then, Solomon also shows us that there are times when we need to speak up, such as Proverbs 31:8-9, We can open our mouths on behalf of those who cannot speak such as a stranger, or orphan. And, we can open our mouths to speak about righteous living in all boldness, not caring for the harsh criticisms of wicked and unjust men.

These verses in Proverbs are the circuit breakers and surge protectors for the soul. The air around us is often static with anger, and our social atmospheres change as often as the weather in Missouri. So, we need to install some of today’s verses as spiritual circuit breakers, committing them to memory and to conscious thought. And in doing so, we will become more and more like Jesus, for no one ever spoke as He did. And I’ll tell you, the book of Proverbs describes, when describing the wise person, a pen portrait of our Lord Jesus. May we all remember to know what to say and when to say it.

What Can We Learn from Absalom?

By Mike McKnight

In 2 Samuel 15:1-12, Absalom conspires to take the throne away from his father; it was a plot conceived due to David’s refusal to deal with Tamar’s defilement by Amnon. This coincides with Nathan’s prophecy that evil would arise from David’s own house because of his adultery with Bathsheba and then even sending Uriah into battle to die to hide her pregnancy.

One of the lessons taken from these first 12 verses is how persuasive Absalom’s speech was in winning the hearts of the people over to himself. David was a beloved king and mighty warrior in the sight of Israel. God blessed David and handed him many victories and David always showed kindness and acted righteously in the midst of Israel. How is it that Absalom could be such an influence? A lesson for us: our speech often carries more power than we tend to think. Thus, let us always consider what we say, understanding that with our speech we can tear down or build

up others (Proverbs 18:21 *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue...”*)

Absalom used deceit to discredit David in the eyes of the people. He would speak to all who entered the city seeking justice and tell them that they will never receive a fair hearing before the king. Absalom eloquently discredited the king’s intentions and abilities to judge fairly while building himself up in the eyes of the people that he was a better man for the job. How often do we see this type of dishonesty and lack of integrity in the world today? People, sometimes for some sort of gain, gossip to pull down someone’s reputation in the eyes of others; often it’s for no other reason than to build themselves up and win favor in the sight of their peers.

Absalom was crafty in how he deceived those who came to the gate and prostrated themselves before him. He would exalt them in the sight of all by raising them up from their prostrated position and kiss them, giving them honor. It is an admirable trait to show preference and kindness to one another, but can we see that Absalom’s actions were not motivated by the integrity of his heart but rather that he saw the people as a means to an end. The more favor he found amongst the people, the closer he was to taking the throne away from his father in revenge. However, not everyone was deceived by Absalom’s treachery; many judged David by what they witnessed personally rather than by the deceitful mouth of a gossipier.

We can all see how one’s reputation is so easily tarnished today in similar manner. When people use gossip to form an opinion about others rather than seeking out the truth of a matter, they too fall into the same trap that led to David having to flee. How often are we led astray by “fake news” or struggle with negative attitudes towards brethren, all because we chose the easy path of someone else’s comments rather than putting in the effort to ascertain the truth of the matter. As Christians, we are instructed to love and serve one another. If one of us has a fault or sins, we are to go to them and serve them in truth, kindness and forgiveness remembering that each one of us belongs to the Lord. We are to serve, not destroy. We are to help pull others out of unrighteousness instead of standing back, judging unrighteously and/or gossiping about their weaknesses. Let us beware of these trappings that are such common place in our society today.

God had given us His Son as payment for all of our sins, let us remember the words of Jesus in John 8:7, *“...He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”*