

## OUR WORDS CAN BRING DISASTER!

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We started a couple of weeks ago talking about the topic of the HEART AND MOUTH CONNECTION.

The scriptures say that out of the abundance of the heart ... the mouth speaks.

And of course ... this is a very practical topic ... because all of us speak ... every day! Something that we do a lot of.

What do our words say about us? About what's in our hearts? What do they reveal?

And ... does it really matter? Maybe our words could be a little better ... but perhaps it's not really all that important? Should we be concerned about the words that we use?

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, (sounds serious?)  
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

So ... would you say our words are important?

(Septuagint) "Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and they  
that rule it shall eat the fruits thereof."

It is important that you and I learn to rule our tongues.

What does Jesus say about our words?

Matthew 12:36-37 (NKJV)

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 word ... useless ... worthless word*)

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

It looks like Jesus considers our words to be very important? Why?

**Matthew 12:34-35 (NKJV)**

34 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.**

Our words reveal what's in our heart! We will be judged by our words.

**Psalms 15 (NKJV)**

1 **Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?**

**Who may dwell in Your holy hill?**

2 **He who walks uprightly,  
And works righteousness,**

And **speaks the truth in his heart; (not a hypocrite)**

3 **He who does not backbite with his tongue,**

Nor does evil to his neighbor,

Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
But he honours those who fear the Lord;

**He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; (keeps his word ... even if it is painful)**

5 He who does not put out his money at usury,

Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

[“My word is my bond.” London Stock Exchange Motto since 1801. Deals are agreed without exchange of written documents].

**God's Word is His bond.** He stands by His Word. Shouldn't we aim to be like our Father?

**Psalms 34:8-15 (NKJV)**

8 **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;**

**Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!**

9 Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!  
There is no want to those who fear Him.  
10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger;  
But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing.  
11 Come, you children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
12 **Who is the man who desires life,  
And loves many days, that he may see good?**  
13 **Keep your tongue from evil,  
And your lips from speaking deceit.**  
14 Depart from evil and do good;  
**Seek peace and pursue it.** (*We usually seek peace by our words*)  
15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
And His ears are open to their cry.

If you desire abundant life? First thing? WATCH YOUR TONGUE!

#### **Psalms 34:12-13 (NET)**

12 **Do you want to really live?  
Would you love to live a long, happy life?**  
13 **Then make sure you don't speak evil words  
or use deceptive speech!**

#### **Psalms 39:1-5 (NKJV)**

1 I said, "**I will guard my ways,  
Lest I sin with my tongue;  
I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle,  
While the wicked are before me.**"  
2 **I was mute with silence,  
I held my peace even from good;**  
And my sorrow was stirred up.  
3 My heart was hot within me;  
While I was musing, the fire burned.  
Then I spoke with my tongue:  
4 "Lord, make me to know my end,  
And what is the measure of my days,  
That I may know how frail I am.  
5 Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths,  
And my age is as nothing before You;

Certainly every man at his best state is but vapour.

“Guard my ways ... lest I sin with my tongue”. Especially around provocation!

### **Proverbs 29:20 (NKJV)**

20 **Do you see a man hasty in his words?**

**There is more hope for a fool than for him. (DISASTER!)**

We need to be watchful over our words. Sometimes ... the “vocabulary of silence” is best.

When someone is recounting all of their problems and difficulties to you ... sometimes it is best to just give a “listening ear” ... rather than rush in with your brilliant solutions. “Well. If I was you ...”.

### **Proverbs 15:4 (NKJV)**

4 **A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, (wholesome tongue = soothing ... pacifying tongue = Tree of Life. Eat and live forever?)**

But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

A twisted ... perverse ... harsh or critical tongue is destructive. Parents can be very influential in a child’s life and destiny by how they talk to that child.

Scripture shows us a number of illustrations where words have got people into serious trouble.

### **Genesis 27:1-4 (NKJV)**

1 Now it came to pass, when **Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see**, that **he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.”**

And he answered him, “Here I am.”

2 Then he said, **“Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death.**

**3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.**

4 And **make me savoury food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”**

Isaac wants to bless Esau. To speak words that will officially and legally make a real difference in Esau’s life.

Isaac knew his words would have an impact. So too did Rebekah and Jacob!  
Do we?

Jacob and Rebekah conspired to cheat both Isaac and Esau.

### **Genesis 27:22-29 (NKJV)**

22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

23 And he did not recognise him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

24 Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?"  
He said, "I am."

25 He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said:

"Surely, the smell of my son  
Is like the smell of a field  
Which the Lord has blessed.

28 Therefore may God give you

Of the dew of heaven,

Of the fatness of the earth,

And plenty of grain and wine.

29 Let peoples serve you,

And nations bow down to you.

Be master over your brethren,

And let your mother's sons bow down to you.

Cursed be everyone who curses you,

And blessed be those who bless you!"

Isaac blessed Jacob ... words which bring prosperity ... prestige ... greatness.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. These are words of life (A Tree of Life).

Then ... Esau arrives.

### **Genesis 27:30-37 (NKJV)**

30 **Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.**

31 **He also had made savoury food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."**

32 And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?"

So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

33 **Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed."**

34 **When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!"**

35 But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

36 And **Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!"** And he said, **"Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"**

37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, **"Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him.** What shall I do now for you, my son?"

Isaac confirms:

- Jacob shall prosper
- He'll be your master

Another principle here: **OFTEN YOU CANNOT TAKE BACK YOUR WORDS!! YOU'LL EAT THE FRUIT!**

Another good reason for not being rash with your words? Often ... it's a good idea to press the pause button!

It's much better if we use our lips to bless ... say good things about a person or situation ... rather than to say bad things.

When scripture mentions blessing and cursing ... it's talking of saying good things or bad things. Cursing isn't necessarily just rude or obscene words ... but could be wishing bad things on people.

### **Mark 10:13-16 (NKJV)**

13 **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.**

Jesus spoke words of encouragement ... health ... protection ... wisdom ... on them and their futures.

### **Not just a religious platitude.**

Jesus demonstrated the **power of our words** ... including curses.

### **Mark 11:12-14 (NKJV)**

12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.

13 And **seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it.** When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14 In response **Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."**  
**And His disciples heard it.**

Jesus spoke to a fig tree. Would you?

### **Mark 11:20-24 (NKJV)**

20 **Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.**

21 And **Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."** (*To curse: to devote to destruction*)

22 So **Jesus answered and said to them,** "Have faith in God.

23 For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever SAYS to this mountain**, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, **but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he SAYS.**

24 **Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**

**WHOEVER SAYS:** So NOT JUST JESUS WILL HAVE WHAT HE SAYS.

CLEAR TEACHING? Even if it is difficult for our carnal minds to grasp. It isn't particularly difficult to understand.

Jesus would be using "mountain" as an example. Not something anyone is ever likely to wish to move. Just an illustration of something big.

But the teaching is ... we can affect situations ... even very big ones ... by our words ... at least by believing words. Jesus spoke to a fig tree ... it doesn't have to be a mountain.

- "I hear the flu's bad this year. I'll probably be the first to catch it. I usually am".
- "My father died young. I probably will too".

We need to be aware of what we're saying ... and very careful of what we're saying.

You may think you're doing okay ... but are you really aware of what you're saying day in and day out ... when you're not paying attention?

### **Matthew 21:18-22 (NKJV)**

18 Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.

19 And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, "Let no fruit grow on you ever again."

**Immediately the fig tree withered away.** (*Underground at the roots*)

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "**Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.**



22 And **whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.**"

**You can do this too!** Is there a fig tree in your life that needs to be cursed ... devoted to destruction?

### **Numbers 20:2-8 (NKJV)**

2 Now **there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron.**

3 And **the people contended with Moses** and spoke, saying: "**If only we had died when our brethren died before the Lord!**"

4 Why have you brought up the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here?

5 And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink."

6 So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them.

7 Then **the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,**

8 "**Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water;** thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." (*Speak to the rock ... similar to ... speak to the mountain?*)

Unfortunately ... it went wrong! For once ... Moses was disobedient (at his wit's end ... provoked by the people. Temper problem?)

### **Numbers 20:9-13 (NKJV)**

9 So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him.

10 **And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"** (*The focus should be on Jehovah*)

11 **Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod;** and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

12 **Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel,**

**therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."**

13 This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the Lord, and He was hallowed among them.

Verse 12 ... unbelief on Moses' part? Did he not believe the words would work? Words of faith? Do we? Moses sought to rely on physical action — striking the rock.

Principle also: Be careful not to deviate from God's instructions!

Just because we're called ... doesn't mean we can treat God's words lightly.

**Psalms 106:32-33 (NKJV)**

32 They angered Him also at the waters of strife,  
So that **it went ill with Moses on account of them;**  
**33 Because they rebelled against His Spirit,**  
**So that he spoke rashly with his lips.**

Moses spoke rashly:

- Death and life are in the power of the tongue
- Restrain your mouth with a muzzle if you have to

We need to be really aware that our words are powerful. Life and death ... blessing and cursing.

The onus is on us to pay attention and make adjustments if necessary.

**Matthew 12:36-37 (NKJV)**

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."**

**Matthew 12:36-37 (NIV)**

36 But I tell you that **everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.**

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

You and I speak words every day. There are plenty of opportunities for us to raise the quality of our words. And by doing that ... we can have better fruit from our lips.