

Soft Spoken or Outspoken

Unfortunately, the words we use, don't always have the effect we want. Sometimes words which are meant to spur people on toward action, fall on deaf ears and immobile people. Sometimes the words we use to try and encourage, are interpreted as patronizing or condescending.

Sometimes we don't know what words to use, and we choose ones that end up doing more harm than good. This morning, we're not going to be talking about the times that we slip-up, and use the wrong words but rather, the method of delivery concerning any words we communicate and their impact on the speaker and the one spoken to

As Pearl Strachan observed, Handle them carefully, for words have more power than atom bombs. In the modern day American culture, and sadly even in our churches today, there is no lack of people who will be glad to tell you off, in other words, be very outspoken.

But sadly there are fewer and fewer who can communicate with soft-spoken, well chosen, words Did you ever stop to think that the quality of some unseen things can only be measured by the visible "fruit" of their output.

For example, The species and quality of a tree can only be known by the nature and quality of its fruit. Likewise, the condition of a man's heart, invisible to other men, can only be judged by what proceeds from him (his mouth).

Luke 6:43-45 *A healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by the fruit it bears; you do not pick figs from thorn bushes or gather grapes from brier or thorn bushes. A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.*

In other words, what we say with our mouth, and how we say it, flows from the fountain of the thoughts and attitudes we conceal in our hearts so that when the faucet of speech is turned on in conversation, that fountain's contents and tone is what flows out of our mouth.

Sadly, many times when the faucet is turned on, out flows scalding water which is why I want to think about words today In other words, if we are often spewing out angry, bitter words that tear down others, Words that blame them for all your problems, that judge others, then our heart is not right before God.

Sadly, it is seen as a badge of honor by many, to be in their own minds, what they call just being bluntly honest. Yet the really good surgeons use a scalpel not a sledge to bring about honest healing.

I. Definitions

The word, word is defined as one of the units of speech or writing or the smallest meaningful element of the language that is capable of being used in chat, talk, or discussion with another person:

Words make up language and language has three important uses--it expresses thought, conceals thought, and takes the place of thought. Washington Gladden said of them, Gentle words, quiet words, are after all the most powerful words. They are more convincing, more compelling, more prevailing.

II. If my heart Part 1

A. If my heart is filled with **bitterness**, the words that I speak will be words that bite the ears and hearts of the hearers

Question: What is the difference between the words bitter and biter? The difference is only one letter the letter **T**.

In other words when bitterness fills our hearts we will tee off on whoever gets in our way.

B. If my heart is filled with **pride**, the words that I speak will be words that are filled with bragging or a know it all attitude.

Remember as some wise person said, Better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool that to open it and prove your are one

C. If my heart is filled with **anger**, the words that I speak will be words that are filled with anger. Once the toothpaste is out of the tube, it cannot ever be replaced exactly as it was in the original

D. If my heart is filled with selfishness, the words that I speak will be words that are few. Words like I, me, or mine. **Don't forget:** The smallest package in the world is a person all wrapped up in themselves

E. If my heart is filled with **unforgiveness**, the words that I speak will be words filled with revenge, payback, and constant reminders of another's failures and mistakes.

C.S. Lewis rightly said, Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive. But remember, He who does not forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must one day pass

F. If my heart is filled with **negativity**, the words that I speak will be words that destroy those around me to the point that they avoid me as much as possible

III. If my heart Part II

A. If my heart is filled with **compassion**, I will speak words that are filled with empathy or kindness

Max Lucado wrote, "I choose kindness... I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me."

John Henry Jowett said "The gospel of a broken heart demands the ministry of bleeding hearts...We can never heal the needs we do not feel. Tearless hearts can never be heralds of the passion. We must pity if we would redeem. We must bleed if we would be ministers of the saving blood."

So remember, if I speak words that are filled with empathy or kindness rooted in a heart of compassion, I will speak words that draw people unto Jesus thus making my life a life worth living

B. If my heart is filled with **positive thoughts**, I will speak words that are filled with encouragement

As **G.K. Chesterton** said when it comes to encouragement, "If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God."

C. If my heart is filled with **gentleness**, I will speak words that are filled with encouragement and benefit of the doubt

Don't forget the wisdom of **Francois Fenelon** who said, "It is only imperfection that complains of what is imperfect. The more perfect we are, the more gentle and quiet we become toward the defects of others."

D. If my heart is filled with **forgiveness**, I will speak words that are filled with healing, acceptance and the opportunity for second chances

I read the following story

Bruce Goodrich was being initiated into the cadet corps at Texas A & M University. One night, Bruce was forced to run until he dropped -- but he never got up. Bruce Goodrich died before he even entered college.

A short time after the tragedy, Bruce's father wrote this letter to the administration, faculty, student body, and the corps of cadets:

"I would like to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my family for the great outpouring of concern and sympathy from Texas A & M University and the college community over the loss of our son Bruce.

We were deeply touched by the tribute paid to him in the battalion. We were particularly pleased to note that his Christian witness did not go unnoticed during his brief time on campus." Mr. Goodrich went on: "I hope it will be some comfort to know that we harbor no ill will in the matter.

We know our God makes no mistakes. Bruce had an appointment with his Lord and is now secure in his celestial home. When the question is asked, 'Why did this happen?' perhaps one answer will be, 'So that many will consider where they will spend eternity.'

Bruce's father had a heart filled with forgiveness and it came out in these words; When the question is asked, 'Why did this happen?' perhaps one answer will be, 'So that many will consider where they will spend eternity.'"

Wrapped up in these last words in his letter is the idea of second chances

E. If my heart is filled with wisdom, I will speak words that are filled with understanding and knowledge

Thomas a Kempis noted, "The highest and most profitable learning is the knowledge of ourselves. To have a low opinion of our own merits, and to think highly of others, is an evidence of wisdom."

IV. Suggested causes: of hurtful, harsh, or outspoken words

A. Anger at God for the things that have come into our lives

Yet Job wrote, In 5:6 *For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward.* And in 2:10 b,c *Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*

We often get angry at God for the things that have come into our lives and it shows up in our speech to and about others

B. The fear of getting older

Getting older often makes people more snappy and outspoken thus less loving.

C. Physical issues.

Often the onset of dementia and Alzheimer's changes how we react to those around us, and the words we use on them as we do

D. Spiritual issues

Forgetting God's love for us

Forgetting God's examples for us

Forgetting God's expectation of us Luke 6:31 *"And just as you want people to treat you, treat them in the same way. We could say it this way, just as you want people to treat you, think of you and speak to you, do likewise to them"*

V. Some suggestions for a cure to the problem of outspoken words and the heart.

Remember to Think before you speak.

Speak facts not opinions. Speak God's word not our opinion

Think about to whom, or about whom, you are speaking. Think about how you are speaking Proverbs 15:1 reminds us *A sensitive answer turns back wrath, but an offensive word stirs up anger.*

Don't forget the implications of our words, Matthew 12:36 says *And I tell you that on the Judgment Day people will be responsible for every careless thing they have said.*

This judgment does not have anything to do with our salvation but rather our works and words. The key is not necessarily the words we speak but as we have been looking at today, it is the judgement of the attitudes of our heart or mind that propel the words off the tips of our tongue.

Psalm 19:14 says *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.*

I Corinthians 3:10-15 says *according to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a*

reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

Will the meditation or thoughts of my heart and the words of my mouth be revealed in that day to be gold, silver, precious stones, Or wood, hay, straw

Let me ask just three small final questions,

1. Would we deliver our words in the same way we do to other people, if Jesus were right here.
2. Would we be as outspoken as we often are with others, if He was listening to us? Well He is!!
3. How are we doing in the word delivery area?

Final thought. Maybe you are reading this and you have been very outspoken in life. In these next few lines there is a soft spoken call of love from the one who loves you as no one else can ever do.

Would you quietly read them and then claim them for your own through the prayer that is shred there for you.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them). Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)