

Sanity

Wise Words that Reflect the Wise Savior

Proverbs 12:17-26

Memory Verse: Proverbs 12:19

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue, only a moment.

Review: (Read verses with each sermon point)

The words of the wise are: _____ vs. _____

- Truthful vs. Deceitful (v.17)
- Healing vs. Damaging (v.18)
- Enduring vs. Temporary (v.19)
- Delightful to the Lord vs. Disgusting to the Lord (v.22)
- Keep confidence vs. Publicizes stupidity (v. 23)
- Brightens up vs. Weighs down (v. 25)

Opening - Ask:

Were there any particular points that really spoke to you? (Let the class discuss for a couple of minutes, share something yourself.)

Relating the Truths to Our Hearts:

Ask:

Can you remember some really good advice someone has given you? Give an example. What do you remember about the person that gave it? Then ask the opposite, has someone given you bad advice? Why was it bad? What do you remember about that person?

- Let the group share. Give an example yourself.
- Think of the characteristics of the advice giver. What was the heart behind the advice? Was there humility? Even the one who gave bad advice may not have evil intent or be an unwise or unbelieving person.

If all the words you have spoken or written (social media, etc.) in the last 6 months were laid out before all of us right now, what kind of picture would we get? Read Matt 12:36-37, then ask the class to compare those words to that picture. Ask, are you prepared to stand and give an account for every word?

- Let the class speak on this in general terms. Ask this, now does the book of Proverbs come into better light? Read Proverbs 10:19, 17:28, & 18:2
- This is why Scripture encourages us to be "Quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." (James 1:9)

- Ask, why is what we say such a big deal?

The words we speak are a result of something much deeper inside of us. Where do our words originate? If deceitful words come out of our mouths, what does that say about our hearts? How do we allow the Lord to work that change in our hearts?

- Our words originate from our hearts. (Matt 15:18)
- Deceitful words show there is a lack of fear of the Lord inside of us! (Prov 1:7)
- Purification/sanctification in our hearts is needed. Focus on the need for a heart change, not on a need for behavior change.
 - Humble ourselves before the Lord in confession and repentance and let HIM CHANGE US! (Col 1:29)

Is it possible to believe our words are full of truth and wisdom but in reality, they are not (i.e. deceived)? What are some ways we can tell if our words are not full of truth?

- Words that are not true will be a burden, bring confusion, guilt, shame, and other fruits of darkness. Truthful words will build up, encourage (“heal”), “brighten up”, and encourage others. Even “hard truths”, meaning what people do not want to hear, will bear good fruit, even if they refuse to hear it at the time.
- It is important that we are able to discern the voice of the Spirit in our hearts and lives to know if He spoke through us or if we were speaking from our own mind (fleshly).
- Ultimately, the words we speak will result in either “fruit of the Spirit” or the fruit of darkness in their life, our lives, and the relationship with that person (Gal 5:19-24, Matt 7:15-20).

The solution is not to focus on changing our words as we will only do that in the strength of our flesh. So, what is the solution for us to grow and change in the area of knowing and speaking wisdom?

- As noted above, humble ourselves before the Lord in confession and repentance and let HIM CHANGE US! (Col 1:29)
- Let this encourage you, your words DO NOT have to be perfect and eloquent! (1 Cor 1:17) Our tendency is to focus on our delivery and ability to speak on the spot, but the Lord LOOKS AT OUR HEART behind the words! That is what the Spirit can use to change lives around us, a heart that desires to share “truth in love!” (Eph 4:15)

Impact Point: [Make it your mission to SPEAK words of life, truth, and encouragement – just like Christ.](#)

Scripture Memory for next week:

Proverbs 4:26 Carefully consider the path for your feet, and all your ways will be established.