



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

October 3, 2010

WISDOM

(Competent In Life's Relationships)

desert breeze community church

“Communication”

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about what we say. The terms tongue, lips, mouth, and words appear nearly 150 times in Proverbs. Communication (words) not only reveals the condition of our hearts but also can make or break our relationships.

THE IMPACT OF OUR WORDS:

Prov. 12:18 *There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

Prov. 18:21 *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

- 1) Words have the power of Life and Death.
- 2) Words have power over Hearer and Speaker. (Pro. 12:13-14)
- 3) Words have power to Know and be Known. (Prov. 20:5; 24:26; 27:6,17)

THE INTEGRITY OF OUR WORDS:

Prov. 10:18 *The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.*

Prov. 15:4 *A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

Prov. 15:1 *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Prov. 25:15 *With patience a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue will break a bone.*

Prov. 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.*

- 1) We are to speak the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15, 25)
Truth: Cliché -> Facts -> Opinions -> Feelings/Needs (Content)
Love: The other person is convinced that you are for them as well as the relationship. (Context)
- 2) Be aware of your imbalances.
Truth without love is pride (Superiority).

- 3) Lead with love and when in doubt go for love.
- 4) Always start with your part and attack the problem and not the person. “I know I haven’t been easy to live with please forgive me, but when you do A _____ I feel B_____ I wish you would do C_____ instead, but I need to find out if I’m missing something.”

THE INOCULATING OF OUR WORDS:

Prov. 16:23 *The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips. (Pr4:23 27:19)*

Matt. 12:34 *For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

- 1) Ultimately the only thing that can heal your words is a change in what fills your heart. Your words are the overflow of your heart.

Matt. 6:21 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- 2) Whatever you treasure the most will fill your heart and whatever fills your heart controls your life (Thoughts, Feelings and Actions). Your heart is the control center of your entire acting self.
- 3) Your heart will either be filled with the kingdom of self in the pursuit of what you think you can’t live without, or the Kingdom of God the only thing that you really can’t live without.
- 4) When your heart is ravished initially and continually by the Word that became flesh and dealt among us through the written word of God, then more and more your life (heart/words) will be about His Glory and not yours.

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The Cross of Christ is God’s ultimate communication:

The TRUTH that I am more sinful than I ever dared to think eliminating superiority, pride and ultimately harshness in my words.

The GRACE that I am more loved than I ever dared to dream eliminating inferiority, fear and ultimately deceit in my words.



Growing

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1) The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about what we say. The terms tongue, lips, mouth, and words appear nearly 150 times in Proverbs. How significant is that and how important is communication to our relationships? How would you rate your ability to talk? (Small – Grande – Venti)

2) Read Proverbs 12:18, 18:21. What do these verses tell us about the impact of our words? Do you think most people would see their words as being that impactful? How do our words not only impact the hearer but also the speaker (us)? How do our words help us to know and be known and why is that important? (Prov. 20:5; 24:26; 27:6, 17)

3) Read Prov. 12:17; 10:18; 15:1, 4; 25:11, 15; 24:26. Which of these verses are most significant to you? The common thread of these verses is that we are to speak the truth in love. How do you define truth and love? Which is more important in communication content (what you say) or context (how you say it)?

4) In speaking the truth in love why is it important to be aware of your own imbalances? What does truth without love and love without truth reveal? What does it mean to lead with love, start with your part and attack the problem and not the person?

5) Read Prov. 16:23; Matt. 12:34. Ultimately the only thing that can heal your words is a change in what fills your heart. Explain. What fills our hearts (Matt. 6:21)? How can treasuring the Cross of Christ change us from the inside out (heart/words)? Make this your prayer!