

## **Speech, and the Power of Words**

“God has given us two ears, but one tongue, to show that we should be swift to hear, but slow to speak. God has set a double fence before the tongue, the teeth and the lips, to teach us to be wary that we offend not with our tongue.”

- **Thomas Watson**

### **Genesis 1:1-18**

Genesis 3:1-7

### **Mark 7.14-23**

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### **Matthew 12.34-37**

- idle words
- reading from Albert Barnes
- a person speaks what is in their heart
  
- “How have I used my tongue? It was designed to be my glory, but has it not been my shame? Has not much corrupt communication proceeded out of my mouth, and little of that which is good, which might either manifest grace or minister grace? Have not I sometimes spoke unadvisedly and said that in haste which at leisure I could have wished unsaid! Have not I said that by which God’s great name has been dishonored, or my brother’s good name reproached, or my own exposed? If for every idle word that I speak I must give account to God, I had best call myself to account for them; and I shall find innumerable of these evils compassing me about.” — **Matthew Henry**

**James 3:6** - And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

- The tongue can defile a person
- ritual cleanliness in the Old Testament

- "The tongue exists to reveal our heart." **John Calvin**
- "Words are the mirror of the mind—they show what is in the heart."  
**Thomas Watson**

What else does the Bible say about the tongue and what we speak?

**Ecclesiastes 7:9** - Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

**James 3:8** - But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

**Proverbs 12:18** - There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

**Proverbs 18:21** - Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

- The great orators of death, from Hitler to Stalin
- Bullies use words to demoralise their victims

### **Esther 7:9-10**

**9** And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.

**10** So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

- How many times have we hung ourselves with our own words?

**Ephesians 4:29** - Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

**Proverbs 25:11** - A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

**Proverbs 16:24** - Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**Proverbs 17:9** - He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

**Ephesians 4:32** And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

How does the Lord use words?

## **Genesis 1**

**Isaiah 55:11** - So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

- Jesus would teach and edify, build people up.

**Psalms 19:14** - Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.