

Taming the Tongue

Happy Wednesday!

Controlling what you say, aka: taming the tongue... in my experience that is certainly easier said than done. What does the Lord say about it?

“We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” James 3:2-12 NIV

So this is no complicated matter and we can easily apply it to what we know about wisdom versus folly and about building your house on the Rock of the Lord versus building on the sinking sand of sin. What you speak steers your life.

“Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.” Proverbs 29:11 NIV

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:29-32 NIV

So fools share the entire depth of their rage, even if they were the ones who were wrong, and tear people apart in the process. Fools may also quickly identify people they know who do this without realizing they’re guilty of it as well. Wise people bring calm - they are peace makers because in the end, after they have spoken of an event and not given every angry detail, they LEAVE ROOM FOR GOD. They are compassionate even when wronged because they know God will finish the story and so they let God finish the story. They let God change their own heart and the heart of any other in any situation. The wise allow God space and time to move in the way He chooses, not in the way they want, because that will be what brings about the building up of others and that will be what gives God glory. And so, the rudder of a wise person brings praise and glory to God, directs them to God in all things spoken - in the mind or in the

heart - and the wise person pours out fresh water which is symbolic of pouring out the Holy Spirit.

What you speak obviously affects the direction of your life on earth and in heaven. You attract what you spew out: if you're full of grumbling, grumblers will find you. If you're full of the joy of the Lord, joyous people will find you. If you're full of fresh water, thirsty people will come to you to find the source of your water, which is God alone.

What do you speak?

What are you attracting?

Are you relying on yourself to change either answer, or are you relying on God to change your heart? The best you can do is to change your behavior for a week or maybe two. God can change your heart forever and He can do it in a moment.

Father I thank you that you care what we say in all ways. We can build up and we can tear down. Help us only build up what You honor and help us tear down what dishonors you. Amen

“Do Something” by Matthew West https://youtu.be/b_RjndG0IX8

“Speak Life” by Toby Mac <https://youtu.be/ZeBv9r92VQ0>

“Write Your Story” by Francesca Battistelli <https://youtu.be/FBmDCDbmtpc>

Love y'all!

Brittany Laing