

## "READ MY LIPS"

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the importance of using our tongue wisely !
2. Read my Lips - Not a lesson about politics but a lesson about the tongue.
3. The book of Proverbs tells much about the power of speech and the proper use of our lips
  - a. Prov. 13:3 "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction."
  - b. Prov. 14:3 "In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them."
4. Words reveal something about our character
  - a. If we listen to others we can tell if they are shy or outgoing
  - b. We can tell how skilled they are in language
  - c. It is also possible to tell something about their morals by the words people use
5. The tongue
  - a. It is a muscular organ in the mouth -
  - b. Primary organ of taste and used in chewing and swallowing food
  - c. This muscle is used in the formation of speech
6. This little thing called our tongue is so important that our eternal destiny will be determined by how it is used - Matt. 12:36-37 "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."
7. We must learn how to use our tongue in the proper way.....

## Discussion

### I. THE TONGUE IS POWERFUL

A. There is life and death in the tongue

1. Pro. 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."
2. Since 9/11 it has been illegal to carry any kind of weapon on board a plane.
3. But we all carry a lethal weapon with us wherever we go - our tongue !
4. Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

B. Jas. 3:5-6 "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 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."

1. The tongue must be guarded and bridled
2. It can cause great harm when used in an ungodly way
3. It can be a blessing and promote great good when used properly.

### II. IMPROPER USE OF OUR TONGUE

A. Cursing and profanity

1. Swearing and cursing and profanity are very common in today's society
2. Hear people using filthy words at work, in the store and in public places
3. Many children now use profanity
  - a. Many parents use such language in the home and children hear it first from them.
  - b. Children often hear such words on TV and Radio

- c. When children start to school they often hear teachers and coaches curse and use profane filthy language.
4. One man who was a coach at a school said: "You know, it seems silly to me to punish someone for just saying the \_\_\_\_\_ word. After all it's just a word, and why make such a big deal out of one word?" How do we answer this?
- a. First - it is a "dirty" word as used by kids when cursing. There is such a thing as "Filthy language".
- (1) Col. 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."
- (2) "Filthy communication is translated "filthy language" in the NKJV
- (3) It is "shameful speaking" in the ASV
- b. Second - you are not going to stop this by giving them permission. Give them the Ok for one word and if then they will also start using another word.
5. Why do people use such language?
- a. Children do it because it makes them feel grown-up or it's cool - attention
- b. Others feel it is the best way to express anger and relieve stress.
- c. Some will use such language so they will appear to be normal and fit in with others
- d. Jesus tells us the real reason people use such language
- (1) Matt. 15:17-20 "Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."
- (2) The problem is an evil heart

6. The bible teaches us to put off filthy communication - Col. 3:8-10
  7. Most people would not use profanity in the church building or around children
    - a. If cussing is wrong "at church" it is wrong anywhere !
    - b. If profanity is wrong around very young children it is wrong around anyone!
- B. Many improper uses of tongue ~ lying, gossip, flattery
- C. An angry Tongue hurts everyone
1. There are those who speak as they should under normal circumstances and then lash out and speak their true character in a moment of rage
  2. Some try to justify their angry tongue by saying it's an "outlet" to vent their anger or that is just the way I am.
  3. Notice what the Bible says:
    - a. Prov. 14:17 "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly..."
    - b. Prov. 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger."
    - c. Prov. 29:22 "An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression."
    - d. Eccl. 7:9 "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."
    - e. Eph. 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
    - f. Jas 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

- D. A person who has an uncontrolled tongue brings pain and hurt upon himself and others
1. Proverbs 21:23- "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles."
  2. 1 Peter 3:10- "For He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit."
  3. Sometimes we use our tongue to say cruel and mean words that hurts others.
- E. It makes our religion useless in the sight of God.
1. James 1:26- "If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless."
  2. Some think it's good to speak their mind. But the Bible says..."A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards." Pro. 29:11
  3. We must control our tongue or our religion is vain - useless
  4. That means we must bridle our tongue - just as a horse is bridled for it to be useful.
  5. God knows our hearts and He would not accept our religion when we use our lips and tongues in an ungodly way.
  6. If not restrained and guarded it will ruin all the religion and influence one has.

### **III. PROPER USE OF OUR TONGUE WILL DO GOOD**

- A. We can offer words of PRAISE, BLESSING, ENCOURAGEMENT to others with our tongue.
1. Prov 25:11 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."
  2. Prov 10:20 "The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth."

- a. To young Christians, preachers, Bible teachers, elders, deacons, mothers, fathers, etc.
  - b. You may never know (or perhaps learn years later) how much your words of praise meant to someone.
3. Prov 15:23 "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!"
  4. Prov 16:24 "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."
  5. Isa 50:4 "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary..."
  6. Luke 4:22 "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?"
  7. Col 4:6 "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

B. We can have a tongue that is kind

1. Pro. 31:26 "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness."
2. Each word should be thoughtfully spoken, for every idle word will be judged against us on judgment day (Matthew 12:36).

### Choose Carefully

A careless word may kindle strife,

A cruel word may wreck a life.

A bitter word may hate instill,

A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the day,

A joyous word may light the way.

A timely word may lessen strife,

A loving word may heal and bless.

~Unknown~

C. We EVANGELIZE with our tongues.

1. The Lord has no tongue but our tongue to preach his blessed gospel.
2. II Cor. 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."
3. II Tim 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all..."

### Conclusion

1. Instead, of allowing the tongue to take part in negative activities, why not keep it engaged in wholesome ways?
  - a. There are never too many encouraging words spoken on the earth.
  - b. Every soul needs comforting.
  - c. It may not be an obvious need, but another member in the church might need some uplifting or motivation.

2. The truthful Tongue is desirable
  - a. Prov. 8:7 "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips"
  - b. Truth is the way that God expects our speech to be.
3. The Thoughtful Tongue is desirable
  - a. Think before you speak.
  - b. Prov. 15:28 "The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."
    - i. We should study or think on how to answer or reply to a situation
    - ii. The wicked do not "think before they speak". They just spurt out foolishness not considering the result upon themselves and others.
4. The encouraging words are valuable
  - a. Prov. 12:25 "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad."
  - b. You can encourage your friends and make them "glad" when they are sad!
  - c. This is what a "cheerful" word can do to help someone who's depressed.
5. Prov. 15:23 "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it. !"
6. The powerful tongue is to be used for Good - not evil!