



Sermon Guide: Words 10/26/25

Text(s): Proverbs 18:21; 12:18; 4:23; 10:11; 18:4; 13:3; 17:27-28; 29:11; 15:28; 16:24

Big Idea: *Our words reveal whether or not we are wise.*

Summary of the Sermon - Proverbs reveals the deep connection between our hearts and our words. Our words are powerful (***What's at Stake***) — they carry the ability to give life or bring harm. They flow from the condition of our hearts (***Where They Come From***), which means real change in our speech can only come through the transforming work of Jesus. Wisdom teaches us to speak with restraint and discernment (***When to Use Them***), remembering that wisdom is reflected in both the words we speak and the words we choose not to speak. Ultimately, redeemed people are called to use their words to bring grace and healing (***How They Heal***), reflecting the heart of Christ, the Word made flesh, who died and rose to make our words new.

Discussion Questions

1. Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” What are some examples—personal or observed—of words that brought life or death?
2. How have the words you speak to yourself shaped your confidence, outlook, or relationship with God? As an exercise take an inventory of the negative words you speak over yourself and search the scriptures to find fuel to battle against them.
3. Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). How do your words reveal what is ruling your heart?
4. Why is “word management” not enough to change our speech? How does the gospel transform the source of our words?
5. In what ways does knowing Jesus was judged for *your* words free you to speak differently today?
6. Proverbs and James both highlight the importance of restraint in speech. What practices or habits help you “pause before you speak”?
7. How does Jesus’ teaching that we’ll give an account for every careless word (Matthew 12:36–37) change the way you think about your daily conversations, texts, or online comments?
8. When have you experienced healing through someone else’s words? What made those words so powerful? Share your story with others if you feel comfortable.
9. How can we learn to use our words to build others up instead of tearing them down—especially in moments of conflict or disagreement?
10. Where is God calling you to speak a healing word this week—either to someone else or to yourself?