

Life Giving Words

Proverbs 18:21

Introduction:

1. Series Intro:
2. Recap from last weekend – The tongue is a small part with a big influence – Our words are so powerful.
3. Stats on words – Average person speaks over 7,000 words a day. How many of you are married to someone who surpasses this average?
4. King Solomon wrote a lot about this in the book of Proverbs. The book was written as a dad to his son containing wisdom of how to navigate life. In his book, Solomon talks about the words that we speak over 90 different times.
5. **Proverbs 18:21 – “Life and death are in the power of the tongue”** (change “the” to “my.”)
6. Your tongue is small, but like we learned last week, it has a lot of influence. In fact, here Solomon is saying that death and life are in the power of the words that you speak. Think about it: Your greatest memories are built upon the words that have been spoken to us. Our most painful memories have been because of the words that have spoken to us.
7. Here is what I want you to see today: changing the words that you speak could change your life, your relationships, and our church. Death and life are in the power of your words. It does not get more powerful than that. The goal is that we speak like Jesus.
8. **John 7:46** – Then officers answered, “Never man spoke like this man.”

9. No one spoke like Jesus. His words spoke power and life. We must speak like Him. Words of life, not death.
10. Big Idea (action point): **Speak life, not death.**
11. Speak life giving words. What are life giving words?

I. Words that are Truthful

1. **Proverbs 6:16-19** gives us seven things that the Lord hates. Two of which are: a lying tongue (V. 17) and a false witness that speaketh lies (V. 19). **Proverbs 14:25** – “A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.” **Proverbs 12:19** – “The lip of truth shall be established forever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.” **Proverbs 12:22** – “Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight.”
2. **Lying** – We embellish the truth. Fishing? Golf? Church attendance numbers
3. Illus: Game Telephone – how the story changes the more it is told
4. Illus: Cameron lying about scratching Lynlee with scissors.
5. **Our words are a reflection of our heart. Want more truth to come out of your mouth, put more truth into your heart!**

II. Words that build up

1. **Our Struggle with Gossip** – It blows my mind that we feel that we must tell everything that we know about everyone we know. Christian, this ought not to be. Gossip is a sin that is prevalent especially in churches. The reason people struggle with gossip is because they

intend to tear someone down to lift themselves up. If you tell something about someone not present at the time and the person you told has a lessened view of the other person, that is gossip. It is sin, and this should not be of a Christian. Don't speak about people, speak to people.

2. **Proverbs 20:19** – “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.”
3. My commentary: Stay away from the guy or girl who talks too much. Here is a good principle: Everything said needs to be true; but everything true does not need to be said.
4. Words of gossip do not speak life, they speak death.
5. **Our struggle with Complaining – Illus:** The children of Israel always complained after the amazing things God had done for them. We are no different. Ways we complain: My house is not big enough; the wifi is not strong enough; I could not find a good parking spot at church; they sang a song that I don't like at church; I don't like my car; My job is not what I wanted; Kids; boss; etc. We complain about so much. **Complaining happens when we take our eyes off of the goodness of God and put them on ourselves.** God has been good to you! **Stop complaining about your life and start praising Him for your life.** **Philippians 2:14** – Do all things without murmurings and disputing's.

6. **The goal: to edify others – 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.” The word edify means to encourage or to build up. The goal of our speech should be to build up. Make them feel good about themselves the same way that God feels about you. It carries on the idea of giving grace to the person the same way that God has given grace to you.
7. **Martin Luther** – God redefined reality with words. When the world was dark, He spoke words and made light. When you were lost in the brokenness of sin, He spoke and declared you righteous. His words changed everything.
8. **For you to speak like Him, you must edify. Tell people what God says about them.**
9. When you feel like a nobody, God says you are fearfully and wonderfully made.
10. When you feel like no one loves you or cares for you, God says that He loves you so much that He sent His Son to die for you.
11. When you feel worthless, God says you were created in the image of God.
12. When you feel like you have nothing to offer, God says that He has a purpose for you and that you are more than a conqueror.
13. When you feel like you aren't special, God says that you are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus.

14. Want to speak life giving words, build up people by telling them what God has already said about them in His Word.

III. **Words that point to Jesus** (Gospel centered)

1. **Proverbs 11:30** - "He that winneth souls is wise."
2. Aren't you grateful that someone opened their mouth and gave you the Gospel? We should be using our tongue for this. Spreading the good news of the Gospel with other people.
3. Nothing is better than using your words to communicate the life that God wants to give people through His Son - Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

1. Life and death are in the power of the tongue.
2. How are you using your tongue? Are you spreading life?
3. Pray and let the Spirit lead.