

July 30, 2023
Pretty, Ugly People: Week 4

We're basing our teaching from an encounter that Jesus had with the religious leaders of His day.

Mark 7:14-15, 18-21 (NIV)

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them..." "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart..."

Mark 7:6-8 (NIV)

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

I've heard for years that the church is FULL of Hypocrites. It's not Full, but we are Guilty!

Hypocrite: a person who pretends to have certain BELIEFS about what is right, but who BEHAVES in a way that disagrees with those Beliefs.

The Issue of WORDS and GOSSIP:

Question: Can you name one weapon that has maimed or killed more people over the centuries than any other?

Question: How many have ever used "UGLY" words?

Our words, often so recklessly spoken, carry more weight than most of us can imagine.

The Bible has A LOT to say about WORDS and how we use them!

Luke 6:45 (NIV)

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Did you know that we can harm WITHOUT USING OUR WORDS?

I. Non-Verbal Communication

Question: How many have ever heard the phrase, "A picture is worth a thousand WORDS!"

The truth is, we communicate more deeply with Non-Verbal communication than Verbal!
The reason is EMOTION gets attached, not by the speaker, but by the hearer!

How are people interpreting your Picture? Usually different than how you think you're sending it!

II. Internal Communication: The Power of our Words Inwardly

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

The Tongue has the power of Life and Death!

Jack Hayford:

"It happened one afternoon, right after I drove away from the church, having just left my office.

I had just pulled out of the parking lot and was headed down the street when, directly ahead of me, another driver did a bizarre stunt with his vehicle, nearly causing a horrible collision.

I was so angry at the craziness of it that there, alone in my car, I yelled out in fury and frustration, "You idiot!" Not being a profane person, I saw the words as only indicating my indignation at the recklessness of the driver. With my window closed, I supposed my comment was somehow an allowable venting of my anger.

However, I immediately discovered that God didn't agree with my self-serving excuse, as the Holy Spirit gripped my soul with this chastening, saying: "I have created no one—no human being—by that description."

But I fought back, "What difference did my words make? Nobody else was in the car, and that driver didn't hear me."

But the answer was obvious. The Lord heard me!"

Most times we feel like we've cornered the market on WORDS! We choose How and When, whether in public or private. But the POWER of WORDS have existed long before us!

A. God Spoke: Everything that exists came about by words.

B. God Blessed: It is Good. We are Very Good.

C. God Declared: Our WORDS are to...

1.) Edify, to build up.

It's not difficult to see the difference between people who were nurtured in their childhood with words of correction balanced with love, and those who were belittled by the words spoken to them.

PAL: Tom's message on WORDS...

Whatever was built in us—be it beautiful or distorted—is directly related to the power of words.

2.) Identify: God called...

For each thing God made, He gave Identification. His words were not random, but directed with Purpose.

Identification is not in terms of what you and I Observe, but rather in the way that we Designate.

For example, bondage in a life is often the result of the way human words identified a person and how that person reacted to them. If the words said to you by a parent, sibling, teacher, or friend were lovely, they may have given you a sense of self-worth (or caused you to become vain). If the words were deprecating, you may have grown up feeling inadequate (or defiant to prove them wrong).

3.) Multiply: God has endowed us with the power to give life by two means: biologically and verbally.

We understand the power of our sexual capacity to beget a life. But we're also called to accountability for the power of our mouths to produce death—or life.

Proverbs 18:21: The Tongue has the power of Life and Death! Build Up or Tear Down!

III. Verbal Assassination: The Power of our Words Outwardly

A. Gossip

1.) Intent. Gossipers often have the goal of building themselves up by making others look bad and exalting themselves.

2.) The type of information shared. Gossipers speak of the faults and failings of others, or reveal potentially embarrassing or shameful details regarding the lives of others without their knowledge or approval. Even if they mean no harm, it is still gossip.

If you are not a part of the problem or the solution and you're talking about it, you're a Gossip!

B. Slander

... is to assassinate someone's character. Slander is simply lying about someone with the intent of causing others to view that person in a negative light.

Ephesians 4:29 (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.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the NAME that is above every NAME, that at the NAME of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on

earth and under the earth, and every TONGUE acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.