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Session 1 | THE SPEAKING GOD HAS SPOKEN AND HIS PEOPLE SPEAK TOO

I. INTRODUCTION

A. WE LIVE WORDY LIVES:

Men on average speak 11,950 words per day and women speak an average of 13,349 words per day (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 01 Feb 25, Vol. 128, pages 367 – 391). That means, you likely spoke around 88,000 words this week

B. OUR WORDS MATTER

“Talk seems so normal, so ordinary, so unimportant, so harmless. Yet few things we do are more important. And underneath the normality of it all is a great struggle, a war of words that we fight every day” (Paul Tripp, War of Words, pg. 13)

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” (Proverbs 18:21)

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak...” (Matthew 12:36)

II. THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

A. GOD IS A COMMUNICATIVE BEING BY HIS VERY NATURE

“Our eternal, transcendent, all-glorious God, who forever exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is by his very nature a communicative being. He both creates and governs through his words and has graciously revealed himself to humanity in order to commune with us. He has revealed himself through creation and

providence in ways plain to all people, leaving no one without a testimony of himself. He also revealed himself through specific words, that we might come to a fuller knowledge of his character and will, learning what is necessary for salvation and life..." (Sovereign Grace Churches Statement of Faith, 1.1 God and Revelation)

B. GOD ACTS BY HIS WORDS:

I. God creates by his word

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth....and God said, 'Let there be light' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness he call night. And there was evening and morning, the first day" (Gen. 1, 3-5).

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all of their host....Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm" (Psalm 33: 6, 8-9)

II. God governs by his word.

"He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold? He sends out his word, and melts them; He makes his wind blow and the waters flow." (Psalm 147:15-18)

III. God gives instructions and commands by his words

"And God blessed them and said to them "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it...You may surely eat of every tree of the garden but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in that day you shall surely die". (Genesis 1:28, 2:16-17)

IV. God reveals himself by his word.

"And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD." (1 Samuel 3:21)

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4).

V. God saves by his word.

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again not of perishable seed of the imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God..... And this word is the good news that was preached to you” (1 Peter 1:22-25)

C. THE CHARACTER OF GOD’S WORDS

I. God’s words are powerful.

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power...” (Heb. 1:3)

II. God’s words are effective.

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11)

III. God’s words are perfect, sure, right, pure, clean, and true: Psalm 19:7-10

The law of the LORD is perfect,^[c]
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules^[a] of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

D. THE IMPLICATIONS OF GOD'S SPEECH:

I. Words really matter.

“Words are powerful, important, and significant. They were meant to be that way. When we speak, we must do so with the realization that God has given our words significance. He has ordained for them to be important. Words were significant at creation and at the fall. They are significant to redemption. God has given words value. (Paul Tripp, War of Words, pg. 17)

II. God gives definition to himself and his creation through his words.

“Through his words, God defines his character, his will, his plan, his purpose, and his truth...God's words define not only him but his creation as well. They give identity, meaning, and purpose to all God has created. We know ourselves only when we listen to the words he has spoken about us. God tells us who we are and defines what we are to do and the way we are to do it.” (Paul Tripp, War of Words, pg. 19-20)

III. SATAN AND THE CORRUPTION OF SPEECH

A. SATAN'S WORDS CHALLENGE GOD'S AUTHORITY

I. Satan's words challenge God's authority.

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1)

II. Satan's words deceive

"But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:1-5)

III. Satan's words come from his corrupt character

43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:43-44)

B. OUR SPEECH HAS BEEN CORRUPTED IN A FALLEN WORLD

I. Corrupt words come from sinful hearts.

"But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander." (Matthew 15:18-19)

C. SINFUL PEOPLE SPEAK SINFULLY

"...For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one."

¹³ "Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."

¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

(Romans 3:9-14)

I. Words in a fallen world can be dangerous.

“How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell”
(James 3:5-6)

IV. THE SPEECH OF GOD’S PEOPLE

A. OUR WORDS ARE A GIFT FROM GOD

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

“In creating us with the ability to talk, God as not only set us apart from the rest of creation but also determined the nature of our lives and relationships” (Tripp, War of Words, pg. 21)

B. OUR WORDS ARE TO BE GOVERNED BY GOD

I. Since we are made in God image, our words are to reflect God’s words.

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another... Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths...” (Ephesians 4:25-29)

II. Our conversations are to be shaped God’s word.

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that” (James 4:13-15)

C. OUR SPEECH IS TRANSFORMED BY THE GOSPEL

- I. Godly speech comes from a transformed hearts.

“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45)

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ. Assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:17-24)

D. OUR SPEECH IS THE BE USED TO GIVE GRACE

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29)

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Colossians 4:6)

V. APPLICATION

- A. Do you talk like your words really matter?
- B. Are your words patterned after God’s words or Satan’s words?

- c. What do you do when you sin with your words?

- d. Are your words aimed to give grace to others?



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