

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE -

11.13.2022

WISDOM WORDS

I. INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 4:25-32; 5:4

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 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. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5:4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

- These vestiges of sinful, foolish speech that belonged to our former life apart from Christ which must be put away.
- And in place of our former manner of speaking there is now a capacity of speech that is in keeping with the new nature.
- There is a proper way to speak that conforms with the new life that we have in Christ.

II. LISTEN UP! SHUT UP!

- Two very important qualities mark the wise person in Proverbs, and they have to do with speech even though they don't involve words.
- That is that the wise person knows when to listen up and when to shut up.

1. THE WISE KNOW WHEN TO LISTEN UP!

- How many times has our inability to listen caused misunderstandings and conflict in our relationships?
- A foolish person who doesn't employ active listening in communication ruins relationships.
- Prov 18:13 If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

- James 1:19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;
- An important element in preserving and furthering the peace and unit of a community of believers is patience and deference in speech.
- Prov 1:5,7b Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,...fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- The wise know the importance of listening, it is how they increase in learning and knowledge.
- You want to improve your relationships with others—listen more than you speak.
- One of the most important things a wise person does is listen to counsel and correction in order to obtain guidance and direction, make wise decisions, and improve their life.
- Prov 15:31-32 The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. 32 Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.
- The wise person listens to wise counsel and correction and therefore grows wiser.
- The wise are willing to admit when they are wrong, change their behavior, and make necessary improvements in their lives.
- Prov 25:12 Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reproof to a listening ear.
- When the wise listen to loving correction and confrontation they value and treasure it greatly; like one who highly values jewelry of gold.
- Prov 11:14 Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
- Prov 15:22 Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.
- Why is counsel important?
- it helps us to make good decisions that will lead to success.
- it helps us to get other perspectives because we all have blind spots.
- because we can easily deceive ourselves.
- If you don't listen to counsel and only listen to yourself—you are a fool!
- Prov 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.
- It's also foolish to listen to ungodly counsel and the counsel of people who will only tell you what you want to hear.
- Rehoboam - 1 Kings 12
- You have to be able to discern if the counsel you are receiving is wise.
- Is the counsel consistent with God's Word?

2. THE WISE KNOW WHEN TO SHUT UP!

- It's ok to not speak all the time.
- The wisdom of the sages is that a wise person restrains their tongue.
- Prov 10:19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.
- The wise person is prudent, he knows when to speak and when not to.
- Prov 17:27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
- The wise restrain their words because they are full of knowledge and wisdom.
- They use words sparingly, especially in times of conflict with others.
- If you want people to see you as a wise person—talk less!

- Prov 17:28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.
- *“Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.”* (Attributed to Abraham Lincoln)
- Here’s why it’s important to restrain your tongue by listening more instead of speaking and remaining silent when appropriate:
 - It keeps you from speaking rashly and impulsively.
 - It keeps you from bragging and self-confident speech.
 - Prov 18:2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.
- Listening and restraint of speech requires a heart that fears the Lord, a heart that is humble, and a heart that treasures wisdom.

III. THE WORDS OF THE WISE

- Solomon places a high value on the words of the wise.
- He compares them to refreshing water, precious gold and silver, and nourishing food (Prov 10:11, 20, 21).
- We should value words of wisdom in the same manner.
- We should place a high premium on speaking words that glorify God and recognize the gift and the power that speech is and use it appropriately.
- Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

1. THE WORDS OF THE WISE ARE TRUE

- Consider Lady Wisdom’s Speech in Proverbs 8
- Prov 8:6-7 Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right, 7 for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
- Wisdom is speaking what is right, true, righteous, and straight.
- We define truth as that which corresponds to reality.
- The wise person speaks words that reflect reality.
- The wise do not distort the truth, bend the truth, speak falsely, or tell half-truths.
- You will find the recurring theme of the consequences of not telling the truth in a legal setting in Proverbs (Prov 6:19; 12:17, 25; 19:5, 9; 21:28).
- Paul writes in Colossians, “Do not lie to one another” (Col 3:9).
- Our God is truth, God’s Word is truth, and we are people who speak truth.

2. THE WORDS OF THE WISE ARE PEACEABLE AND GENTLE

- Prov 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- Prov 15:4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.
- Prov 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
- Solomon isn’t saying that there isn’t a time to disagree or argue or to give a rebuke.
- What he’s saying is that when we disagree with others, a soft or tender response is much more conducive to fruitful conversation than harsh words.
- The wise use gentle speech to promote life and peace, not stir up trouble and conflict.

- The wise defuse the tense situation and make it easier for a matter to be settled peacefully.

3. THE WORDS OF THE WISE BRING HEALING

- Prov 12:18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- Prov 12:25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.
- This is a consequence of wise speech.
- Prov 16:24 Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
- How many people around us need a word of encouragement?
- Our words impact people.
- There are so many burdened and broken hearted people and a word of life from you can impact them greatly.
- Prov 15:23 To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!
- Our words can alter a person's emotional state when we offer a kind word, a grace-filled word, an encouraging word, and an uplifting word.
- Nothing says this more powerfully than when we bring the ultimate good news—the gospel of Jesus Christ to a person.
- The gospel is always a word in season!
- Let's use our words to edify people, not tear them down.
- Take time to encourage people around you.
- The prophet Isaiah wrote that the Lord gave him a tongue of wisdom to know how to sustain and encourage the weary with a timely word (Is 50:4).

4. THE WORDS OF THE WISE INSTRUCT

- **Prov 15:7** The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.
- The wise use their words to teach and instruct.
- **Prov 10:13** On the lips of him who has understanding, wisdom is found,
- This is the pattern that Solomon demonstrates in the first nine chapters which are lessons to his son—teaching and transmitting wisdom—wisdom that is to be learned and received.
- Parents are to instruct their children (Deut 6)
- Paul writes to Titus showing him how the pattern works in the church as older women are to teach and the younger women (Titus 2:3-5).
- To Timothy he writes that the sound doctrine he was taught from Paul should be transmitted and taught to others in a pattern of discipleship.
- The wise person doesn't keep his wisdom and knowledge to himself, he spreads it.

5. THE WORDS OF THE WISE ARE APPROPRIATE

- Prov 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.
- The words of the wise are thought out, measured, and appropriate for the circumstance.
- Wisdom teaches us to say the right thing, at the right time, in the way.
- Prov 15:28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
- Words are powerful and must be thought through carefully.
- Think before you speak. Think of the consequences your words will bring. Think of the weight that your words carry and how they will affect

someone.

- The wise choose their words carefully.
- The wise wait for the right time to say instructive, corrective, or hard things.

- We are instructed on the appropriate speech around people who won't listen, especially to wisdom.
- Prov 23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.
- Sometimes the best thing is to avoid a discussion with a fool.
- Prov 26:4-5 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.
- This sounds like a contradiction but it's not.
- Whether to answer a fool or not answer a fool depends on the nature of the fool that you are engaged with in conversation.
- The wise person can assess whether a conversation with a fool will have a net positive outcome or a negative one. Will the conversation be fruitful or not?

CONCLUSION

- There are positive consequences to wisdom speech.
- Prov 13:3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life;
- Prov 21:23 Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.
- There is life in wisdom speech fully and ultimately when we have come to the One who is the sum of all wisdom and knowledge—Jesus Christ.
- And in Christ, our hearts are renewed and our speech is sanctified.
- Our speech should reflect how our hearts have been transformed.
- It begins with trusting Christ and it continues as we let his word dwell in us richly (Col 3:16).
- The wise speak the right thing at the right time and in the right way because they have stored up God's Word and truth in their heart.
- Our prayer then becomes what David prayed "*Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!*" (Ps 151:3)
- Turn to the source of true wisdom and receive wisdom that comes from above.
- James 3:17-18 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
- May we speak words that glorify God, give life to others, and may we reap the harvest of righteousness sown from the wise use of our words.