

BEHOLD THE POWER OF THE TONGUE!

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

-- Proverbs 18:21

DESTRUCTIVE POWER!

* 10:19. Talking too much invites SIN!

* 18:6-7. Words can easily get us IN TROUBLE!

4 ways the tongue can be used for evil:

(1) LYING

> The Lord DETESTS lying! (But DELIGHTS in truthfulness) 12:22 (6:16-17,19)

> Lying has UNAVOIDABLE consequences! 19:5,9

> God equates CONCEALED HATRED with lying. 10:18

→ How does this proverb correlate with good manners? Southern culture?

> Lying puts off the INEVITABLE (and makes it WORSE). 12:19 (21:6)

> The PERKS turn into HURTS! 20:17

Read 26:24-28 – The Lying of the Malicious

* Don't be fooled by the CHARM!

* He will be EXPOSED! (context of 26:27)

(2) FLATTERY {"Manipulation via Complement"}

> Leads to RUIN. 26:28; 29:5

> Will get you NOWHERE. 28:23

-- Mae West – "Flattery will get you everywhere."

(3) TALE-TELLING {Gossip, Slander, Rumors, Whispers}

> Kills FRIENDSHIPS. 16:28; 17:9b (11:13)

> Earns a BAD REPUTATION! 25:9-10

> Can DESTROY another person. 11:9

-- The big lie: STICKS & STONES

-- Q: What does "knowledge" mean here?

-- Key: Don't repeat stories that haven't been VALIDATED!

* With tale-telling, is it okay if the story is true? Why or Why not?

(According to other proverbs – 10:9 – there are times when silence wins!)

(4) CURSING

> In the proverbs, this doesn't refer to using 4-Letter Words.

-- instead, it's wishing for or "calling down" destruction on someone else.

Q: Can we really "call down" curses?

ex: Wendy Simmons; Wayne Mills and Bobby Cremins

> Cursing is SELF-DESTRUCTIVE. 20:20; 30:11, 17



CONSTRUCTIVE POWER!

Ways the tongue can be used for good:



- (1) GOOD WORDS (ex: “eulogy” – lit. “good words”). They are:
- > LIFE-GIVING! (They enhance life). 10:11,12
 - > PRECIOUS! 10:20; 25:1
 - > HEALING! 16:24

Q: Ever approached someone who was facing a tragedy and you didn’t know what to say?
Sometimes it’s not the MEANING of the words, but the simple fact that words are being SPOKEN!

(2) TIMELY WORDS

- > Kind words SOOTHE ANXIETY in the midst of stress. 12:25
- > Good for both the SPEAKER and HEARER. 15:23
 - When you give a timely word to someone who needs it, you get JOY!
 - Ex: Dale Bush at Ingles.

“Sometimes **when** you say something is just as important as **what** you say.”

(3) HARD WORDS

- > A REBUKE is invaluable to the person who can receive it! 25:12
 - * The wise will LOVE YOU for it. 9:8
 - * The discerning will be IMPRESSED. 17:10
 - * It is more effective than FLATTERY. 28:23

(4) UNSPOKEN WORDS

- > They give you the power to ...
 - * PROTECT YOURSELF! 13:3; 21:23
 - * LOOK SMART: even FOOLS will look WISE! 17:27-28
 - * END DRAMA! 26:20
 - The “last word” is usually only the “next word.”

But that’s not all ...

BEHOLD THE POWER OF THE ... EAR?

- People are HUNGRY for GOSSIP! 18:8
 - Everyone likes it!
- The LISTENER is guilty, too! 17:4



Q: How should we deal with the person with a loose tongue? (20:19)
-- We should AVOID him/her!