

## Wise Up...Walking in Wisdom or Folly      Scriptures      Lesson 8

### Summary Page Tongue-Tied...Wisdom with Words

**Proverbs 16:23** "A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction."

1)"A wise man's heart guides his mouth.." is the ability to evaluate a situation and respond appropriately. 2) A person's wisdom, or lack of it, determines his or her prospects in life.

**Proverbs 10:19** "When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise."

**Proverbs 17:20** "A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble." Some people seem to thrive when they are offending others-In their love of a fight, pushing those around them to a breaking point.

**Proverbs 19:9** "A false witness will not go unpunished and he who pours out lies will perish."

This principal addresses the seriousness of lying in court, and applies to all speech.

**Proverbs 12:18** "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

The way of wisdom is paved with careful and truthful words that promote healing to the soul and produce peace.

**Proverbs 12:22** "The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy."

**Proverbs 17:27** "A man of knowledge uses words with restraint (patience); and a man of understanding is even-tempered." Wisdom is better than weapons of war. (**Ecc. 9:18**)

**Proverbs 19:22** "What a man desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar." People long for unfailing love. This OT love denotes integrity and faithfulness. These qualities are the hallmark of God's dealings with His people. He desires this in the relationships of His people.

**Proverbs 13:2-3** "From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence. He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin." The ability to control the tongue is one of the clearest marks of wisdom.

**Proverbs 11:13** "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret." A gossip also magnifies and sometimes propagates mistruth and lies.

**Proverbs 26:20** "Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down." Careless words and deceitful words produce a quarrel and distrust, even when they do not destroy a relationship. "I was only joking" does not reverse the damage that has been done; deceit leaves a mark on the deceived one's heart.

**Proverbs 15:4** "The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit." Hateful words can cause great emotional damage. Encouraging words bring emotional health, producing life bearing fruit; calmness, healing, and restoration.

**Pr 15:2** "The tongue of the wise commends knowledge; but the mouth of the fool gushes folly." Mean spirited words ultimately brings down two lives. Tone of voice can make a difference.

**Proverbs 18:8** The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts." Fine morsels of food are hard to resist, like gossip. Once taken, it's always to the listener's harm.

**Proverbs 15:28** "The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil." Solomon recommends a gentle answer in response to wrath.

**Tongue-Tied...Wisdom with Words L 8: p1 Pr 18:21** "The tongue has power of life and death."

**Page 2** See above. **Page 3** Look up Ecclesiastes 6:11, 9:17, Psalm 119:130, Pr 12:14, Gal 5:22

## Lesson 8

## Tongue-Tied...Wisdom with Words

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:23 "A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction."

What **warning** (information to help us know right from wrong) did God show us? Pr 10:19 "When words are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is not absent, but he who \_\_\_\_\_ his tongue is \_\_\_\_\_." Pr 17:20 "A man of perverse heart does not \_\_\_\_\_; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into \_\_\_\_\_." Pr. 19:9 "A false witness will not go \_\_\_\_\_ and he who pours out \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_."

What **instruction** (actions we should take) did God give to us? Proverbs 12:18 "Reckless words pierce like a \_\_\_\_\_, but the tongue of the wise bring \_\_\_\_\_." Pr.12:22 "The Lord detests \_\_\_\_\_ lips, but he delights in men who are \_\_\_\_\_." Pr. 17:27 "A man of \_\_\_\_\_ uses words with restraint; and a man of \_\_\_\_\_ is even-tempered." Pr 19:22b "...better to be \_\_\_\_\_ than a \_\_\_\_\_."

What **benefits** (the results of choosing wisely) did God tell us about? Pr 13:2-3 "From the \_\_\_\_\_ of his lips a man enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ things..and...he who \_\_\_\_\_ his lips guards his \_\_\_\_\_.." Pr 11:13 "...a trustworthy man keeps a \_\_\_\_\_" Pr 26:20 "Without wood a fire goes out, without \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ dies down."

What are the **consequences** (results) for not choosing God's wisdom? Pr 15:4b "...a \_\_\_\_\_ tongue crushes the spirit" Pr 15:2b "...the mouth of the fool gushes \_\_\_\_\_." Pr.18:8 "The words of a \_\_\_\_\_ are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's \_\_\_\_\_ parts." Pr. 15:28b "...but the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_ gushes \_\_\_\_\_."

### Word Study:

- 1) communication: to share thoughts and information by speech, writing, signs
- 2) deceitful: false, tricky, not to be trusted. Her mouth and acts were deceitful.
- 3) flattery: overly and insincerely praising someone or something. His flattery was way too much for her to believe in her heart.
- 4) interpretation: to make clear by way of explanation what someone else means. Her interpretation of my words clearly showed great understanding.
- 5) penetrate: to pierce or pass into or through something. Words penetrate us.

Anybody's mouth gotten them in trouble this last week? We're not here to study about wisdom, we're here to GET IT!

Where and when did **communication** with words begin? In the beginning at the time of creation when God spoke. Let's look at Genesis 1:3, 6,9,14, 20, 24 and in 26 He creates someone to communicate with. "Man, who is created in our image and likeness..." . Since man is made in God's image every man is worthy of honor and respect; he is neither to be murdered (9:6) nor cursed (Jas 3:9).

When God speaks He gives life and breath to non-living things. We are an image of God and our words have power. Proverbs 18:21a "The tongue has the power of \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_." THAT'S POWER! How many relationships begin or end in our power with words? In 2 Corinthians 4:13 Paul says "I believed; therefore I have spoken" Breathe in and speak out. We are to use our words for godly power. We have nothing more powerful than words. How can we use them in a godly way?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

It is important to use words in a positive, uplifting way. Words can make our hearts rejoice; they can also break our hearts like nothing else.

- Proverbs 15:4b tells us "a **deceitful** \_\_\_\_\_ crushes the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Proverbs 17:20 " ..he whose tongue is \_\_\_\_\_ falls into \_\_\_\_\_.
- Proverbs 15:2 " ..the mouth of the fool gushes \_\_\_\_\_."
- Proverbs 10:19 " When words are many, \_\_\_\_\_ is not absent..."

It seems the more we say the more trouble we are likely to get into! Name some ways we can sin with our mouths. Have you ever misused the name of God?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_

What about "godless chatter"? Arguing just for the sake of winning an argument? Name some examples of "godless chatter" What about "dirty jokes", " racial remarks" or discussions at work over the "coffee pot" or "water cooler". Read Proverbs 13:2-3. Our lips speak words that can bring enjoyment or ruin.

**Flattery** is another form of deceit. We may use this on our children thinking we are building them up when in fact we are *setting them up for failure*. Saying things like “you are the most talented soccer player on the team”, or “you’re the smartest kid in your class”, or the “most beautiful girl in the world”. Even if it is true now it won’t be that way in all situations. Someone else will sooner or later be “better”, “smarter”, “more beautiful” or whatever. It sets the child up for defeat and self criticism. It sets them up to try to achieve a false goal that will change depending on who the latest competition is. This is flattery and the child cannot live up to it.

Better to say “You played a really good game today. I know you were excited to score the winning goal for the team!” How about “That was a really smart decision to plan your Science Project that way” or “I love the way you fixed your hair for the play. It looked really beautiful!” This takes away the comparison that requires the child to always be the best in all things in class, or a girl to always look like the most beautiful at all times, or fail to appreciate the talents of other children that contribute to team efforts. Most important how about giving God the credit for our talents, abilities and results that bring us joy?

Our words also **penetrate** our inmost parts. Proverbs 18:8 says “The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down in a man’s inmost parts.” What is a “choice morsel”? The juiciest, sweetest and most desired piece of something. When we listen to gossip or worse still take part in it, it penetrates us. Human nature is to want to listen but when we do it changes how we see and relate to the person gossiped about. We never quite see them the same. The gossip may be true or it may be false but it changes the way we view this person whether true or not. Think about this:

When a person gossips *to* me they will gossip *about* me. Be courageous put a stop to it. Name some ways we can do that.

Proverbs 12:18 says “\_\_\_\_\_ words pierce like a \_\_\_\_\_.” Does your heart have holes pierced through it by reckless words? Share some examples if you would like. Even if what is said is true, it is so-o ugly and uncalled for..

Have you ever thrown around reckless words to someone or about someone? How does God desire for us to speak? Proverbs 12:22 We are to speak truth in love.

Proverbs 18:21b says our tongue will bear fruit. The one who speaks the words is not the only one who eats of that fruit. They can be words that are sweet and bring glory to God or words that pierce the heart and cause wounds that may bear scars for many years to come. Remember a fruit always has seeds. Our words are like seeds planted that will bear fruit for good or evil. What kind of seeds are your words planting in your children, husband, friends, strangers you meet, neighbors?

Let's look up some Scripture on the power of our words:

- |                     |                |               |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| • Ecclesiastes 6:11 | Proverbs 17:27 | Psalm 119:130 |
| • Ecclesiastes 9:17 | Proverbs 15:28 | Proverbs 19:9 |

Ecclesiastes tells us man's wisdom is limited and thus so should his words be. Also that the quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded (listened to) than the shouts of a "ruler of fools". Ever see someone on a corner with a megaphone shouting out threats and obscenities about something? Or an attitude or opinion that hurts others? Tell about some that come to mind.

What do the two Proverbs Scripture tell us? How about Psalm? We need to be aware of the insight and **interpretation** of our words to the heart of others. Most importantly how does God feel about those who hurt others with their lies? He tells us in Proverbs 19:22 it is better to be \_\_\_\_\_ than be a \_\_\_\_\_.

A person who can be trusted can keep a secret, but a gossip betrays others.  
Proverbs 11:13 Tell a time you felt betrayed by the words of someone.

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Do you consider yourself someone who can keep someone else's secrets? \_\_\_\_\_

Men are seldom called gossips or their conversation considered to be gossip.  
"Gossip" is considered to be a negative part of conversation by women.

What could stop the sin of gossip according to Proverbs 26:20? How is Proverbs 12:14 like the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22? Attitudes that are inside of us usually spill out of our mouths. If it is good things it will bless others.

## YOU SAY GOD SAYS BIBLE VERSES

1) You say: 'It's impossible'

God says: All things are possible Luke 18:27

2) You say: 'I'm too tired'

God says: I will give you rest Matthew 11:28-30

3) You say: 'Nobody really loves me'

God says: I love you John 3:1,6

4) You say: 'I can't go on'

God says: My grace is sufficient 2 Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 91:15

5) You say: 'I can't figure things out'

God says: I will direct your steps Proverbs 3:5-6

6) You say: 'I can't do it'

God says: you can do all things Philippians 4:13

7) You say: 'I'm not able'

God says: I am able 2 Corinthians 9:8

8) You say: 'It's not worth it'

God says: It will be worth it" Romans 8:28

9) You say: 'I can't forgive myself'

God says: I forgive you 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1

10) You say: 'I can't manage'

God says: I will supply all your needs Philippians 4:19

11) You say: 'I'm afraid'

God says: I have not given you a Spirit of fear. 2 Timothy 1:7

12) You say: 'I'm always worried and frustrated'

God says: Cast all your cares on me 1 Peter 5:7

13) You say: 'I'm not smart enough'

God says: I will give you wisdom 1 Corinthians 1:30

14) You say: 'I feel all alone'

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you Hebrew 13:5

The purpose of God, will never contradict (be different from) the promises of God.