

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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August 13, 2023

“The Power Of Words”

By Aric Russell



Words are powerful tools. The words we choose to use are things we should think very much upon. Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians, *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers"* (Ephesians 4:29).

The words we choose to speak can be very encouraging and lift someone up. At the same time the words we choose to use can be very hurtful or can really tear someone down. In the Gospel account of Matthew, Jesus says; *"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned"* (Matt. 12:36-37).

Jesus warns us to use our words carefully. Too many times we do not pay attention to how we use our tongues and sometimes it can get us into a world of hurt. Let us take just a few seconds to think about the power of our words.

When we first think about our words I feel it is important for us to remember that God used His words to create this universe. If we recall, back in the Old Testament, God spoke this world into existence. If we go back and read the first chapter of the Bible (Gen. 1), we will see the words, "God said" no less than ten times in that text. As we read Genesis the first chapter, we find that as God said it, it happened. God is the all-powerful God. So, as God finished, He said, "it is good."

We also know by reading the scriptures that Jesus used the power of His words for the good of others. If we recall, all through the Gospels, Jesus healed people by the power of His words. In Matthew the eighth chapter, for instance, we read where Jesus healed a leper by simply saying, *"I am willing; be cleansed"* (Matt. 8:3).

We can continue to read in the same chapter where Jesus cast out demons with just a word, and healed all who were sick. (Matt. 8:16). We could keep going with those Jesus healed but I think we understand how powerful the words of Christ are. Jesus, however, did not just heal those who were sick by His words. Jesus had the ability to raise the dead, as well.

We read in John's account about a man named Lazarus. Now, Lazarus had been dead four days before Jesus arrived in the city, but we read in John the eleventh chapter where Jesus is standing in front of the tomb where Lazarus laid. In John 11:43, Jesus cried out, *"Lazarus, come forth!"*

Jesus indeed has the power to do all that He pleases, but it is important to remember that all Jesus said was for the benefit of others. Jesus was not out to hurt anyone with His words. He simply wanted to edify the saints and bring glory to His Father in Heaven.

Now, I understand that we as humans do not have the same powers as God or Jesus. We are not going to be able to heal the physical body by our words. However, I do believe we can heal or destroy the spiritual body by our words. The way we talk to people can be the very best thing to bring one to Christ, or it can be the very thing that takes one away from Christ. Remember where we read earlier in Matthew 12?

Well, let us read more of that chapter. Jesus says, *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of Vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good"*

things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:33-37).

Jesus tells us that people will know us by our words. People will know if we mean good, if we are trying to be an encouragement, if we are trying to help further the gospel of Christ. At the same time people will know if we are out to do evil. They will know if we are trying to drag them down, if we are trying to stand in the way of the Truth.

It is time we all started thinking seriously about our words. I saw a post the other day that describes this situation well, and I feel it very fitting here. It took the letters of the word "think" and made some good points. It said, "Before you speak...THINK... is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind?"

Let us all THINK before we speak.

"The Demands Of Holiness And Our Culture's Influence"

By Russ Bowman

Matt.14:6-7 - "But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask."

John the Baptist was killed due in great part to Herod's lust. And Herod's lust was enflamed in great part by the dancing of the daughter of Herodias. It's difficult to see this story otherwise.

Yet more and more I see followers of Jesus involved in such activities, or allowing - and even encouraging or facilitating - such in their children. The physical body is attractive to the opposite sex. Movement in the physical body can and often does enhance said attraction. There is absolutely no denying such.

And you would think in a culture that is so obsessed with nudity and sex that Christians would be especially conscious of any appearance or behavior that encourages lasciviousness.

But it is commonplace to see young men and women who profess godliness wearing very revealing clothing (read short shorts & skirts; cropped tops; low cut blouses; clingy, sheer, or tight shirts, dresses, athletic gear). And wearing such shamelessly - almost defiantly - with the idea that anyone who might object is an archaic prude. Then taking their flaunted sexuality to the dance floor so that they might display themselves in the most sensual of ways. It happens regularly. It happens extensively.

And we're often scared to address it because of the brazen ridicule that is directed at anyone who would decry such carnality. I'm saying it. Think what you will. Shame on Herodias' daughter. Shame on Herod. Shame on us. Holiness demands more than such animal behavior.

(This was an article posted to FaceBook that I thought was excellent. I gave it the title, but the author is still the same. BM).



Memory Verse of the Week:

Philippians 1:9 (NKJB) "

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,"

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Janet Boren, Fred Johnson, Todd Bryan, Alton Bailey, Joe Shane, Bill Woodall, Mary Ann Holley, and Aaron Andrews.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Jerry Kennemur
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Tolerance And Intolerance"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
1 & 2 Thessalonians
Author: Mark Mayberry
Starting Page & Question: *Page #27, Question #5*

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Danny Sheffield
Scripture Reading: *Ephesians 6:1-3*
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Responsibilities Of Children To Their Parents"*
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

August 16, 2023

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: Ezekiel
Author: Dan King
Starting Page & Question: *Page #84, Question #1*
Invitation: Adam Harris
Song Leader: Brian Meade
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“Tolerance And Intolerance”

Tolerance: The ability or willingness to tolerate something, in particular the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with. (Webster).

I. The World’s View Of Tolerance.

- The “New Tolerance” Versus The “Old Tolerance” (D.A. Carson Book, “The Intolerance Of Tolerance”)
- How Did We Get Here?
- The Real Cause Of The “New Tolerance.” **Ephesians 6:11-12.**
- This “New Tolerance” Hurts What Is Actually Truth, And Us Too!
 - **Acts 21:33-34; Mark 12:28-32.**
- This “New Tolerance” Blurs The Lines Of Truth And Error Thrives....

II. When Should Christians Be Tolerant?

- Jesus Is Our Example And Pattern For How And When To Be Tolerant- **1 Peter 2:21.**
- Tolerant Enough To Seek Peace With All Men- **Matt. 5:9; Hebrews 12:14; Rom. 12:18.**
- Tolerant Enough To Love Our Enemies & Do Good To Them.
 - **Matt. 5:38-43; Rom. 12:19-21.**
- Tolerant Enough Of The Disobedient, Unbelievers, & False Teachers To Not Threaten, Harm, Or Do Any Violence To Them- **Luke 9:51-56; Matthew 13:36-42 (vs. 30); 15:14.**
- Christians Can Tolerate Views God Has Not Regulated- **Romans 14:1-23.**
- Christians Can Tolerate The Weak In The Faith- **1 Corinthians 8:11; 8:7: 8:1.**
- This Requires:
 - (1) Patience. (2) Gentleness. (3) Humility. (4) Teaching & Admonishing. (5) Wisdom.
 - **Matthew 11:29; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; James 3:17-18.**

III. When Should Christians Be Intolerant?

- Jesus Is Our Example Of Intolerance- **John 2:13-17; Matthew 21:12.**
- Jesus Was Not Tolerant Of False Teachers- **Matthew 7:15; Matthew 23; Mark 12:27.**
- We Cannot Tolerate False Teaching- **Ephesians 5:10-11; Galatians 2:4-5.**
 - What Happens When We Tolerate False Teaching? **Galatians 5:9.**
- We Must Be Intolerant Of Christians Who Will Not Repent.
 - **1 Cor. 5:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15.**
- We Must Be Intolerant Of The “Divisive Man”- **Titus 3:10.**
- We Must Be Intolerant Of Evil Influences- **Revelation 2:18-20; 1 Corinthians 5:6.**
- This Requires:
 - (1) Knowing The Truth. (2) Loving The Truth. (3) Standing For The Truth.
 - **Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Proverbs 23:23; Jude 3-4.**

IV. The Consequences Of Standing Firm.

- We May Be Called Names: “Bigots” “Haters” “Mean-Spirited” “Backward.” **Matt. 5:11.**
- We May Be Hated By All Men, But Approved Of God- **John 15:18; 2 Timothy 4:7-8.**

“Responsibilities Of Children To Their Parents

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:1-3.**

I. Listen To Your Parent’s Instructions.

- **Proverbs 1:8-9; 4:1.** The First Step To Submission & Obedience....
- Children Who Don’t Listen:
 - Think They Know Everything And Can’t Be Taught.
 - Are Rebelling Against Their Parent’s Authority- **Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 5:14 (ESV).**
 - Are Stubborn In Their Own Way- **Ezekiel 2:4-7.**
 - Are Not Going To Have Peace In The Home- **Proverbs 29:22.**
- Children Who Do Listen:
 - Learn Some Very Needed Instruction and Advice In Life.
 - Are A Good Example Of How Children Are To Interact With Their Parents.
 - Help Make The Home A Blessing- **Proverbs 23:15-16; 24-25.**

II. Obey Your Parents In What Is Right.

- **Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20.** This Right And Proper Under God’s Arrangement.
- Obedience Should Come From The Love We Have For Our Parents- **John 14:15.**
- Children Need To Obey Their Parents:
 - Pick Up Your Toys, Wash Your Face, Brush Your Teeth, Get Ready For Church & School.
 - Clean Your Room, Be Respectful, Be Honest, And Do Your Best!
- Teenagers Need To Obey Their Parents:
 - Obey Driving Parent’s Rules, Be Home When Expected, Help Out Around The Home...
 - Clean Your Room, Be Respectful, Be Honest, And Do Your Best!
- It Is Actually A Sin To Be Disobedient To Parents- **Romans 1:30-32; Deut. 21:18-21.**

III. Honor Your Parents.

- **Ephesians 6:1-2 (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16).**
- Honoring Parents Is Greatly Needed By Young People Today.
- We Honor Them By:
 - Listening, Obeying, Being Kind, Being Respectful, Helping Them, And Appreciating Them.

IV. Don’t Despise Your Parent’s Discipline.

- Nobody Enjoys Discipline, But It Is For Our Good- **Hebrews 12:9-11.**
- We Need To Remember: Parents Are Required To Discipline Children- **Proverbs 13:24.**
- Good Behavior Should Be Encouraged/Rewarded- **Matthew 3:17; 17:5.**
- Bad Behavior Must Be Corrected/Punished Accordingly- **Proverbs 22:15; 23:13-14.**

V. Care For Your Parents When They Need You.

- Children Are To Repay Their Parents- **1 Timothy 5:3-4; 16.**
- Our Parents Cared For Us When We Were Helpless, Without Strength, & Would Perish.
- Part Of Honoring Our Parents Is Providing Their Needs- **Mark 7:10-13.**

VI. Seek To Have A Good Relationship With Your Parents.

- You Only Have A Limited Number Of Years In Your Parents Home....
- Seek To Make The Best Of Your Time With Them!
- If You Do This, You Can Have Many More Fond Memories With No Regrets.