

## Sermon Text Discussion 5/7/2017

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Proverbs: "Why Every Word We Speak Matters More Than We Think" by Drew Hunter

### Overview

We often separate our words from our actions. We think of words as important, but we may believe that actions are what really cause change. Actually, our speech is just a different kind of action. Unlike an action, the results of our words are not always seen. Yet, they are powerful. They affect things.

Proverbs has a lot to say about the power of our words. We will study these four insights about our words:

1. The importance of our words
2. The power of our words
3. The character of our words
4. The renewal of our words

### Quotations

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"You have never spoken a neutral word in your life. Your words have direction to them. If your words are moving in the life direction, they will be words of encouragement, hope, love, peace, unity, instruction, wisdom, and correction. But if your words are moving in a death direction, they will be words of anger, malice, slander, jealousy, gossip, division, contempt, racism, violence, judgment, and condemnation." – Paul Tripp

"The sin of gossip is bearing bad news behind someone's back out of a bad heart." – Matthew Mitchell

"When our mouths are empty of praise for others, it is probably because our hearts are full of love for self." – John Piper

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) Read Proverbs 10:20 and Matthew 12:34-35. According to these texts, what two components of our speech are connected? Is there such a thing as a 'slip of the tongue'? What do our words reveal about our heart?
- 2) Proverbs 18:21 reads, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Does that seem overly dramatic to you? Why or why not? Think of an example in your life when words have left a scar.
- 3) Gossip and slander are culturally pervasive today. Proverbs 16:28 warns against 'the whisperer'. Both being one and engaging with one can be hurtful to another's reputation. Do you struggle more with being a 'whisperer' or engaging with one? What actions have you taken, or should you take, to avoid this sin?
- 4) Every lie, no matter how small, is the giving of a false reality; the hiding of truth. How can even the smallest of lies cause relational strain and damage between two people? Do you have an example when a small 'fib' had a significant consequence?
- 5) Our words can be both powerfully hurtful and powerful helpful. Give examples of times you seen words that are:
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  - Honest (Proverbs 12:19, 14:5)
  - Gentle (Proverbs 15:1, 4)
  - Fitting (Proverbs 15:23)
  - Restrained (Proverbs 10:19, 29:20)
  - Encouraging (Proverbs 12:25)

- 6) Drew mentioned a rule to consider: *If you have any inclination to affirm or encourage someone, do it, and do it right away.* How are you doing living by this rule? As a small group, how can you help each other in this area?