



“Careful or Careless Speech”
Matthew 12:33-37; James 3:1-12
September 19, 2021 – Pastor Robert Reid

INTRODUCTION

Psychology Today (03.12) some years back wrote, “Slips of the tongue are almost inevitable. For every 1,000 words spoken, we make one or two errors. Considering that the average pace of speech is 150 words a minute, a slip is bound to occur about once every seven minutes of continuous talk. Each day, most of us make somewhere between 7 and 22 verbal slips.” A verbal slip is one thing – careless speech is quite another. That speech is damaging and makes a mark in another’s life that may last a long time! We must be careful with our speech.

FOCUS - Since our speech is important to God, we should be careful and not careless with how we use our mouths.

First reminder

- I. *Jesus – words are revealing* *Matthew 12:33-37*
 - A. *Draws an illustration from nature (12:33)*

B. Declares something about religious leaders’ nature (12:34-35)

C. Delivers a stern caution about their speech (12:36-37)

Follow-up thoughts to explore later.

Proverbs
18:21

Matt. 7:1-5
7:15-20

Rom. 14:10;
2 Cor. 5:9
Rev. 20:11-15

Second reminder

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| <p>II. <i>James – words can be devastating</i> <i>James 3:1-12</i> A. <i>Tongue is powerful (3:1-5)</i></p> <p><i>B. Tongue is perilous (3:6-8)</i></p> <p><i>C. Tongue causes problems (3:9-12)</i></p> <p><i>Look to the example of Jesus and his passion to see how to control our tongues.</i></p> <p>FURTHER REFLECTION OR ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the control of the Spirit impact the way we use our tongues? Look up Galatians 5:16-26. Make a list of how our speech might change when we are under the control of the Spirit and not the flesh. 2. Look at the news media this week and look at some examples of people that were careful with their speech and those that were careless. How about sharing your discoveries around the dinner table? Also suggest how the one who was careless may have done differently to reflect careful speech. 3. A Bible verse to memorize: “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” (James 1:19). 4. In James he has much more to say about our tongue. Read the entire book this week and discover and underline what he has to say about our tongue. 5. There is a blog you may want to read (“Careful with Criticism”) that talks about the problem that often shows up in our speech http://reidsreflection.blogspot.com/ | <p>Psalm 19:14 39:1</p> <p>John 18:37 1 Peter 2:23 Luke 23:34 Luke 23:43 Colossians 4:6</p> |
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