

3-The Power of the Tongue

1/16/21

INTRO:

I. → **Ephesians 4:25-30**

*25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and **speak truthfully** to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.*

→ 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

*→ 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building others** up according to **their needs**, that it may **benefit** those who listen.*

II. **THE COW TONGUE**

BODY:

I. Speaking Truth

A. The words we meditate upon impact our state of mind.

1) **Psalms 19:14**

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

2) **SINGING "GLOOM, DESPAIR AND AGONY ON ME"**

B. If we love someone we will not withhold truth from them.

1) **Ephesians 4:15-16**

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

2) **NOT THE SAME AS SILENT TREATMENT**

II. Speaking Love

A. Our words have more of an impact on people than we think.

1) **1 Peter 3:8-9**

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

2) Sticks and stones

3) **PEOPLE PICKING ON WILLIAM**

B. Negative words are like water flowing from a well.

1) **Ephesians 4:30-32**

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God . . . Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2) **THESE ARE THE ACIDS IN THE RAIN**

a) Bitterness—(pikria) poison, acridness

b) Rage—(thumos) fire

c) Anger—(orge) violence, unbridled passion

d) Brawling—(krauge) outcry

e) Slander—(blasphemia) railing, evil speaking

f) Malice—(kakia) depravity, malignity

III. Speaking Life

A. Every morning we have a choice over life and death.

1) **Proverbs 10:19**

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

2) **Proverbs 12:18**

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

3) **Proverbs 18:21**

*The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

4) JOHN DENVER—ANNIE'S SONG, 1974

- a) "It was written after John and I had gone through a pretty intense time together and things were pretty good for us. He left to go skiing and he got on the Ajax chair on Aspen mountain and the song just came to him. He skied down and came home and wrote it down... Initially it was a love song and it was given to me through him, and yet for him it became a bit like a prayer."—*Annie Martell Denver*