With Just A Word

Greg Kline · Proverbs 12:25

INTRODUCTION

- Words are incredibly powerful. And how we handle them will determine how we have our relationships with one another.
- Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

1 Out of the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth Speaks

Matthew 12:33–37

- For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.
- On the day of judgment, people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.
- You can choose to be a good tree that bears good fruit, or a bad tree that bears bad fruit.
- If all my words were put on the screen for everybody to see, would I be viewed as a child of God?
- So step one is examine my words. Step two, examine your sources.

2 The Tongue Is Powerful

James 3:2–12

- So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.
- How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire.
- But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil full of deadly poison.
- From the same mouth come blessing and cursings. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.
- James says, like Jesus did, I have a choice.

3 Be a Friend of the Struggling

Proverbs 12:25; Proverbs 10:21; Acts 4:32–36

- What type of service for my God can I have to my brothers and sisters in Christ and those struggling in the world who need him so badly? One example is to be a friend of the struggling.
- The lips of the righteous feed the many.
- Have I said anything that would feed the many? Or that would lift up somebody struggling with despair and anxiety.
- Would they call me a Barnabas, a son of encouragement?
- So if my mouth isn't speaking encouragement to those struggling, can I say I'm pleasing my God?

4 A Heart That's Willing to Listen

Proverbs 17:27–28; Proverbs 18:4; James 1:19–20

- Whoever restrains his words has knowledge. And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

- If you want to be wise, the Proverbs say, how do you handle conversations? You do a lot of listening.
- Let every person be quick to hear, be slow to speak, and slow to anger. For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
- When we lose our temper and we speak rashly and out of anger, we leave holes that can be forgiven, but may never completely heal.

5 A Heart That Desires to Diffuse Tension

Proverbs 15:1; Proverbs 31:26; 2 Timothy 2:23–26

- A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- She opens her mouth with wisdom. And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
- As Christians and as children of God, we are called to diffuse tension, not join the battle firing away on either side.
- How we talk with people absolutely determines their willingness to hear us out on the more important things.
- The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone. Able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness.

THE CHALLENGE

What kind of heart do I have? What can I accomplish with just a word?

MY NOTES