

The Impact of Words

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – August 2, 2020

[James 3:3-5, 7-10](#)

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6... 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

I. WORDS ARE POWERFUL

[Genesis 1](#) (God spoke the universe into existence with a word)
“And God said, Let there be...”

[John 8:11](#) (Jesus showed mercy and forgiveness with words)
“... neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

[John 19:30](#) (Jesus completed His work on the cross with words)
Jesus said, “It is finished.”

[Romans 10:9-10](#) (We profess our salvation with word)
9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

2. WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO BUILD UP OR TEAR DOWN

[James 3:10](#)

10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

[Hebrews 10:25](#)

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. WORDS REVEAL WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE

[Matthew 12:34](#)

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

[Proverbs 17:27-28](#)

27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. 28 Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

4. WORDS SHOULD BRING PRAISE TO GOD

[Psalm 9:1-2](#)

1 I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

[Psalm 34:1](#)

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

[Psalm 103:1-2](#)

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits —

[Hebrews 13:15](#)

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.