

RCMI L-Path Teaching

February 16, 2020

TITLE: HOLD IT!

TEXT: Proverbs 10:19-20; others as specified

BIG IDEA: We need to learn to hold our tongues by thinking first before we speak and by changing our hearts.

INTRO: The tongue is so powerful and there is a great need to learn how to control it.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” -Proverbs 18:21

- What comes out of your mouth has the capacity of either speaking life or death.
- Problem with our tongue, Matthew 12:36, we’re accountable for every idle word and one day we’ll give an account of everything that you spoke out of your mouth before the judgment seat of Christ.
- When we speak many words – transgression is unavoidable. [v.19a]
- Be Slow To Speak [James 1:19]
- Prov. 10:20 gave the difference between the wise and the fools.
 - The wise thinks before he speaks.

I. THE WISE THINKS FIRST BEFORE HE SPEAKS. [V.19b]

A. The Wise Measures His Words Before Speaking Them.

We can ask for forgiveness for careless words – but the sting of their hurt cannot be altered.

Jesus said this about careless words, Matt. 12:36-37

We will give an account for the words we speak.

“It is better to be quiet and have everyone wonder if you are wise or not, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt that you are not.” -Anonymous

Many a mouth is working overtime while the brain is on vacation.

ILLUS.- “The best rule for talking is the one carpenters use: **measure twice, cut once.**” Measure your words before you speak. That’s hard to do because we speak so quickly.

B. Be Wise In Using The Tongue Because It’s Very Powerful

In James 3:2, The word *‘perfect’* means *‘mature’* when you’ve learned not to offend in what comes out of your mouth you have reached a level of spiritual maturity.

1. If you want to get victory over something in your life you need to get your mouth under control. James 3: 5-12

II. THE WAY TO CONTROL THE TONGUE IS TO CHANGE THE HEART. Prov. 10:20

A. What stands out as most obvious is the comparison and contrast of the worth of the tongue of a righteous person with the value of the heart of wicked people.

- James 3:7 talks about the fact that the tongue cannot be tamed.
- James 3:8
 - V. 8, **“Restless evil”**, restless means no constraints.
 - “Full of deadly poison,”** Tongue is spewing poison, spewing poison on people, spewing poison in your marriage, spewing poison in other people’ faith, etc.

B. It’s a Tongue and Heart issue. [James 3: 9-12; Prov. 10:20]

- The tongue represents a person's mouth and what they say; the heart represents a person's inner being—their nature.
- What comes out of your mouth is a reflection of what is in your heart. [Matt.12:34]

C. What Fills Your Heart?

- It will all depend on what's filling your heart. Jesus said, “**Out of the abundance of the heart [the] mouth speaks**” (Luke 6:45).
- A critical heart produces a critical tongue. A self-righteous heart produces a judgmental tongue. A bitter heart produces an acerbic tongue. An ungrateful heart produces a grumbling tongue.
- But a loving heart produces a gracious tongue. A faithful heart produces a truthful tongue. A trusting heart produces an encouraging tongue.

D. The Answer Is Jesus

- When you allow Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God to have your heart, he takes your hardened heart and gives you a heart of flesh.

CHALLENGE: Know and understand that you cannot change what comes out of your mouth until you let God change your heart. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Some of you need a heart transplant and our God is doing surgery this day.

DISCUSSION:

- What have you learned from the message this morning?
- Why do you need to hold your tongue? How can you hold it?
- Are you having a problem controlling your tongue? Share.

REMINDER:

- First Fruit Offering
- Pledges for New Sanctuary chairs