

Why We Should Be Careful with Our Words?

Ecclesiastes 5:2 - Solomon wrote,

"Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven and you on earth; therefore, let your words be few."

Many need to work harder at applying this instruction. There are really two warnings here. One caution of concern is words that are hastily spoken: "do not be rash with your mouth." How often have we uttered words without giving careful thought? The results can be hurt feelings, damaged relationships, even sin.

James 1:19 – James says, "*let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak.*"

Remember that a word spoken can never be un-spoken. It's an irreversible action, and we may have to live with the re-action! Or consequence of the word spoken.

The other warning contained in this statement from wise Solomon is a warning about simply talking too much. "Let your words be few." He says, what a temptation it is to tell everything we know, about every subject under the sun. When we do so, we cause others to "tune us out". Even during the rare occasions when we really do have something important to say. Someone has suggested that God gave us two ears and just one mouth. So therefore, we ought to listen twice as much as we talk.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 goes on to explain why we must be so cautious with our speech. "*God is in heaven and you on earth.*" Never forget that you have an almighty creator who is listening to your every word. Be careful!

Matthew 12:36-37 – Jesus said,

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

The misconception of the words "just as I am"

The song Just as I Am is a commonly used invitation song. The idea in the song is that we cannot make ourselves right with God on our own; apart from Jesus' blood we have no hope. That is the exact picture that is painted in the New Testament.

Ephesians 2:8-10 – Paul informs us saying, "*For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*"

Titus 2:5 – Paul said, "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*"

I fear, however, that some folks have the strange idea about Jesus saving us "just as we are." They seem to think that he saves us without any change in our conduct or condition of our lives. That is the very opposite of what is taught in the New Testament.

Luke 24:47 - Jesus' charge to the apostles was,

"That repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all the nations."

Forgiveness is extended to those willing to abandon sinful conduct, not to those who insist on continuing in it.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians,

"Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, Nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the lord Jesus and by the spirit of our God."

He did not say such are some of you, but such were some of you. They changed their conduct in connection with being washed, sanctified, and justified. "Just as I am," if referring to our own helplessness, is a comforting thought, but to suggest it means salvation without repentance is to hold out false hope.

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