

Word notes Sunday 6/2//2011 Tony Hodge
The Power of the Tongue

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: James 3

Continuing on with insights into how to live out our Christianity James goes on to highlight the disproportionately large effect the tongue can have – both in things we say to others and ourselves and the things others say to us. James starts by mentioning teachers, yet this is only in passing as he is addressing all of us – “all stumble”.

What we say can set the course of our life (vv3-6 and Mt 15:11) and our tongue is the hardest thing to tame (v8) yet with the same tongue we praise God. James says this should not be and like good works that flow from a life submitted to God so also will good words.

Lastly James talks about wisdom. What we say may appear to be wisdom but James sees two distinct sources – one bad coming from selfish ambition (of the devil) and one good coming from God. We can see which kind someone is using by their life and deeds (v13).

Which wisdom is influencing your life?

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

We all agreed on Sunday that words can bring both hurts and blessings. We have a responsibility both in what we say about ourselves and to others, and in what we listen to and take onboard in our lives. Discuss these questions:

Read Thessalonians 5:19-22 and 1 John 4:1 and discuss how this might apply to things said to us by anyone.

Look at the quotes from Proverbs on the next page (make copies for the Cell members). Individually for each one underline the half sentence or whole quote which most describes you. For example Proverbs 15:2 – are you the kind of person who shares or listens to sound knowledge or do you tend to share or take on board everything you hear or read without testing it?

NB 1- we're looking for tendencies here not condemnation!

2- some proverbs do not have an either or so only underline them if they apply.

If there are some things or ways you're not happy about either in what you say to yourself or others or listen to and take onboard in your life (stumbling not a complete fall!) share as a confession with one or two others, repent and pray for each other to be more like Jesus.

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

The first part of this year is shaping up to be a time to proclaim the Gospel in Newmarket. There are two big evangelistic events at the upper school in March/April:

7pm 19th March "Tough Talk" - guys from the world of sport sharing their faith at Newmarket College
www.tough-talk.com

7pm 2nd April - All Saints have some partners from the US over to help encourage mission who will do a full-on classical Gospel Meeting at the College.

Who might you invite – how can you get to the point of asking them?

Wisdom regarding The Tongue from Proverbs

Pr 10:19* When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Pr 10:20* The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

Pr 10:31* The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out.

Pr 11:12* A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbour, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

Pr 12:18* Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Pr 12:19* Truthful lips endure for ever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Pr 15:2* The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

Pr 15:4* The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Pr 16:1* To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.

Pr 17:4* A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.

Pr 17:20 A man of perverse heart does not prosper; he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble.

Pr 17:28* Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Pr 18:21* The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Pr 21:6* A fortune made by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapour and a deadly snare.

Pr 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Pr 25:15* Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Pr 25:23* As a north wind brings rain, so a sly tongue brings angry looks.

Pr 26:28* A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Pr 28:23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favour than he who has a flattering tongue.