

Sins of the Tongue

“I said, ‘I will guard my ways lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me’ (Psalm 39:1)”

Introduction

1. We have seen the need to control our tongues and use our words for righteousness.
2. In this lesson, we identify sins often committed with our speech.

Discussion

I. Sins of Deceit

- A. Lying: Proverbs 6:16-19.
 1. John 8:44: Liars are of the devil, who is the father of lies.
 2. Revelation 21:8: Will enter the lake of fire.
- B. False Witness: Exodus 20:16
 1. Proverbs 12:17: Spreads deceit.
 2. Proverbs 19:5: Will not go unpunished.

II. Sins of Maliciousness

- A. Slander: Leviticus 19:16
 1. Definition, whispering, evil or unfavorable report with intent to damage.
 2. May be public or private.
 3. Psalm 31:13: To maliciously speak evil against another.
 4. Psalm 101:5: God will destroy.
- B. Whispering: Proverbs 16:27-28
 1. Talebearer, causing strife by spreading unfavorable reports: Proverbs 16:20
 2. Backbiter, causing wounds that go deep: Proverbs 18:8
 3. Slander secretly.
- C. Gossip: Proverbs 26:20-22
 1. Telling of news that is not yours to tell.
 2. Difference between gossip and slander is intent – though the effects are the same.
 3. Proverbs 18:8: Whispers out of desire “delicious morsal” rather than malicious intent.
 4. Breaks confidence in private matters: Proverbs 11:13
 5. 1 Timothy 5:13: Speaking of private matters and saying things they should not.
- D. Insulting and Contemptuous Language: Matthew 5:22

III. Curses and Cursing

- A. Relatively unfamiliar to many, the Bible uses the word “curse” to describe something many people do regularly without realizing it.
- B. Curse / cursing occurs 188 times in 163 verses in the NKJV.
 1. Genesis 3:14: God cursed the serpent after it tempted Eve.
 2. Genesis 3:17; 8:21: God “cursed” the ground.

3. Genesis 12:3: God would curse those who curse Abraham.
4. Deuteronomy 27: Curses pronounced by God for sinful behavior.

C. What is it?

1. From God: pronouncement of divine judgment (Deut. 27)
2. From man: pronouncement or declaration of judgment, condemnation, malignment, or disdain.
3. Cursing is the opposite of blessing: Proverbs 30:11
4. Examples:
 - a. 1 Samuel 16:7-8: Shimei cursed David when he fled from Jerusalem.
 - b. Zecharia 5:3: "Every thief, perjure **shall be expelled**."
 - c. Matthew 11:14, 21: Jesus cursed the fig tree, "*Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.*"
5. Therefore, it is the declaration that a person is something evil, or pronouncement that something evil should come upon a person.
 - a. "_____ you!"
 - b. "You are such a _____."
 - c. One may even curse self: "I am (good for nothing / worthless / deserve to die / a horrible person / etc.)."

D. The sin of cursing.

1. Ecclesiastes 10:20: Danger in even cursing in secret and in the heart.
2. Matthew 15:4: Cursing mother or father was deserving of death.
3. Romans 12:14: We are commanded to bless and not curse those who mistreat us.
4. James 3:9: Cursing our fellow man (including self) must not come from the same mouth with which we bless God.

IV. Corrupt Speech:

- A. Obscene talk or filthy language: Colossians 3:8
 1. Uttering obscenities, cussing, foul speech.
 2. Speaking inappropriate, immoral, corrupt subject matter.
 3. Words or subjects that are filthy, dishonorable, shameful, disgraceful.
- B. Blasphemy: Speaking injuriously of what is holy or of God.
- C. Crude joking and foolish talking: Ephesians 5:4
 1. Foolish or silly talking, buffoonery.
 2. Crude Joking: Jest about corrupt, improper, crude, or debased things.

V. Patterns in Speech that Lead to Sin

- A. Excessive talking: Proverbs 10:19
- B. Rash words: Proverbs 12:18
- C. Harsh Speech: Proverbs 15:1-2
- D. Irreverent babble: 2 Timothy 2:16
- E. Idle (lazy) words spoken without proper thought or diligence: Matthew 12:36-37

Conclusion

1. God created our mouths and language to glorify Him and to allow us to live in His image.
2. James 3:9-10: It is not fitting that we should glorify God and allow corrupts speech from the same fountain.
3. Let us cleanse our speech of every evil thing that we may bear good fruit to God with our lips.