

The Word We Speak

Isaiah 55:10-11 (New King James Version)

¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, **But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**”

Introduction

Let me tell you a story of Jesus. One day He was entering Capernaum, a city in Galilee. A Roman centurion approached Him, *begging Him, and said “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, terribly tormented.”*⁷ Jesus *said to him, “I will come and heal him.”*⁸ But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed.”⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and **I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.**¹⁰ Now when Jesus heard this, He was amazed and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. ...”¹³ And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment (Matthew 8:5-13). The centurion’s belief in the power of the spoken words impressed Jesus.

That’s what we are going to think about this morning: the power of the words we speak. Three lessons and two action points on the word we speak.

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Lesson #1: **Our words accomplish what we please.**

No one should speak their words aimlessly. Rather, we must expect that every word that goes forth from our mouth will accomplish what we please. In today’s text, the LORD shows us how He uses His Word to accomplish His will: ¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, **But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it**” (Isaiah 55:10-11, NKJV). Words spoken make things happen.

Here’s an example of how God accomplishes what He pleases with His Word. Do you remember how God created the heavens and the earth? Not by waving a magic wand over the universe but with His spoken words. He said, “Let there be light,” and there was light

(Genesis 1:3). Six more times He said and all the creations one by one came into existence (Genesis 1).

Jesus practiced the same thing with His spoken word as His Father did. For instance, He calmed down the storm with His spoken word; He rebuked the wind and the sea to be still (Mark 4:39). What about healing the sick? Once again, He used His spoken word to heal them (“Be healed,” He said to the woman with hemorrhage—Mark 5:34). Or, “Your faith has made you well” (Matthew 9:22). The spoken word has power to make things happen.

Don’t think that it is God or Jesus alone who use the word to make things happen. God has given us the power and the privilege to do the same. Indeed, without realizing the power of our words, we too speak our words to communicate, change, heal, hurt, create, or even destroy. We too send out our words to accomplish what we please and make things happen. E.g. If I ask ushers to come forward for offering, they do it. If you ask me to come to you right now, I will do it for you as well. Practice it to send out your words to prosper in the things for which you send them. Never speak empty words, because you will get nothing out of them. **Our words accomplish what we please.**

Lesson #2: **Our words have consequences.**

As much we expect our words to accomplish what we want, we must realize that we reap what we sow with our words. We bear the consequences of the words we have spoken. Sometimes for years, or even eternally. I don’t think you need any further explanation on this one.

There’s one habit that God never wants us to get into. That is, the habit of ungratefulness or the habit of grumbling against God, because there will be unpleasant eternal consequences. E.g. The Book of Numbers, especially chapters 13 and 14, show us one negative example of the power of our words—the Israelites repeatedly grumble (the strongest degree of disobedience and unbelief) against God (sinned against God—Numbers 21:7) for forty years saying that they wanted to go back to the life of slavery and that they would never make it into the Promised Land. They got what they had spoken for.

Here’s the background. After the Exodus, the people of Israel were ready to enter the Promised Land. But, before that, God commanded Moses to choose and send out 12 men, one from each tribe of the 12 tribes, to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:2).

So, the 12 men scouted the land for 40 days. They came back and gave the report to the congregation of Israel. Ten out of the twelve spies said that the land was harsh, and the inhabitants were like giants. *Compared to them, they continued, we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, so were we in their sight* (Numbers 13:32-33).

Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried...² All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, “Would

that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” ⁴So they said to one another, “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”...

The LORD heard it all. He had enough. So, He responded saying to Moses, ¹¹ “How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? (Numbers 14:1-4, 11). In verse 27, God continued saying, ²⁷ “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, **‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you;** (Numbers 14:27-28).

Two of the twelve spies were different, Caleb and Joshua. They never doubted God’s power or grumbled against Him. Both of them got into the Promised Land. For instance, unlike the other ten spies, Caleb reassured the people saying, “Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to conquer it!” (Numbers 13:30, The Living Bible). To Caleb, the LORD did as he had spoken in His hearing. As he believed and spoke, Caleb entered the Promised Land. Words we speak have consequences. We harvest what we have spoken.

Lesson #3: **Our words come with accountability.**

Power comes with responsibility. Power exercised with no responsibility hurts the people. Power used with accountability benefits the people. For each word we speak, not only there is a consequence, but also God will hold us accountable. Listen to God’s Word: *For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).* This verse also applies to the words we speak. The Bible also declares, “...every mouth may be closed and all the world may become **accountable** to God” (Romans 3:19).

Jesus said, “... whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell” (Matthew 5:22). Remember your accountability.

Action Points:

1) **Tame your tongue.** Be slow to speak (James 1:19). James said: You are perfect if you don’t make mistakes with the words you speak (James 3:2). “*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing—this should not be*” (James 3:9-10). “*Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water*” (James 3:11-12). Therefore, train yourself

to choose words carefully. Treat your words like a double-edged sword understanding that they can help or hurt the hearer (Hebrews 4:12).

Here's what you can practice. Say to God and the people in your life the words of thanks all the time. Make a habit of thanking God every day as often as you can; for life, health, family, job, and even for bad things (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Say also the words of encouragement to build up each other, not to tear down. E.g. My high school music teacher told me one day that I could sing. Since then, I knew I can sing. Say to each other, *You look great! You made my day! You have a beautiful smile!* Don't say, *"Why can't you be like so and so?" "You look ugly!"* and so forth.

2) **Store up** what is good and godly in your heart. Why? Because, whatever you store up in your heart, it will come out of your mouth (Luke 6:45): Jesus said, *"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."*

You cannot say good words when you have nothing good stored up in your heart and vice versa. Your mouth will bring out/ give away whatever you have stored up in your heart. If you are serious about building up others with your words, you must begin storing up good and godly thoughts in you first. Paul the Apostle, therefore, wrote: *"Whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—think about such things"* (Philippians 4:8). Keep on thinking about such things every day!

Conclusion

Remember: your words come with power, consequences, and accountability. They can edify or destroy the hearer. They can either heal or hurt. Choose wisely what you say. Paul the Apostle wrote: *Don't use bad language. Say only what is good and helpful to those you are talking to, and what will give them a blessing* (Ephesians 4:29, The Living Bible).

Let's pray.