

## Lesson 5. The Minister and his Words (James 3)

Resources: Newheiser, J. (2008 Opening up Proverbs. Leominster: Day One Publications.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). Be Skillful (p. 79). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

“There is a legend of a king who asked his trusted servant to bring him the most valuable object in his kingdom. The servant returned carrying, on a silver platter, a human tongue. The king then asked his servant to bring him the most dangerous object in the realm. The servant returned again with a human tongue. By words people and kingdoms can be built up or torn down.” (Newheiser, Opening up Proverbs)

- I. Use your words \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Proverbs 10:19
  - b. Rather than talk about it, do it
  - c. Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit: But the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.
  - d. James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
  
- II. Speech is a litmus test of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Mt 12:34-36
  - b. Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life.
  
- III. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of your words
  - a. Proverbs 18:21
  - b. Proverbs 11:9 An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: But through knowledge shall the just be delivered.
  - c. Proverbs 16:27 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: And in his lips there is as a burning fire.

- IV. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ people with your words to get what you want
- Proverbs 29:5
  - Realize the dangers of flattery. Don't dwell too much on the flattering words that people say to you.
  - Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; And a flattering mouth worketh ruin.
- V. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with your speech
- Proverbs 12:22
  - Proverbs 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, And they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
- VI. Be a \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 11:13
  - Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: And a whisperer separateth chief friends.
- VII. Don't use \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 4:26-29
  - Proverbs 18:6 A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calleth for strokes.
  - Proverbs 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: But he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.
  - Proverbs 17:20 He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: And he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.
- VIII. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ talk
- Proverbs 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
  - Proverbs 27:2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; A stranger, and not thine own lips.
- IX. Keep your \_\_\_\_\_. Psalm 15:4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; But he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

X. Use your words to build up. Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: And the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

XI. Your Words Can (Wiersbe, Be Skillful)

- a. Be as refreshing water 10:11
- b. Be as Food 15:4
- c. Bring Peace instead of war 15:1
- d. Restore the Sinner 15:12
- e. Rescue the Perishing 14:25
- f. Encourage the Burdened 16:24