



**A Courageous Conversation About  
The Power of What We Say  
(Proverbs 18: 20-21; James 3:1-12)**

**June 17, 2018**

*“20 Words satisfy the mind as much as fruit does the stomach; good talk is as gratifying as a good harvest. 21 Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose.” (Proverbs 18:20-21, The Message Bible)*

**Big Question: What impact have your words had on your life?**

**Four Conversations We Will Have This Month**

1. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we see challenges** (How your view of the world affects the way you manage the tough days that come into your life)
2. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we work** (How your works should match what you believe)
3. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we communicate** (How your words should match your goals)
4. A courageous conversation about **changing the way we manage seasons** (How your disciplines should match your season)

**I. Four Things Our Words Teach Us**  
(James 3:1-12, NKJV)

**1. Our words show our level of maturity (or perfection)**

- 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. **If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man**, able also to bridle the whole body.

**2. Our words show the direction our lives are going**

- 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses’ mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so **the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.**

**3. Our words show us that the tongue cannot be tamed by men (True intent can be hidden)**

- 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But **no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.**

**4. Our words show us our inconsistencies**

- 9 **With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men**, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of **the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.** 11 Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear fig? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.



**Closing:** Q/A - Let's take questions about how we communicate

## **II. Three Questions To Start With That Talk About The Challenges of Communication**

### **1. Why is it harder to communicate to someone close to you?**

**Answer:** It's a higher level of communication. They know you up close and can probe deeper with real facts.

### **2. Why does communication turn violent before you know it?**

**Answer:**

1. Your emotional sink can fill up and you may not notice it before it overflows
2. Your emotional overflow signs are ignored, such as sarcasm, yelling, and insults

### **3. What practical steps can you take to improve your communication?**

**Answer:**

1. Set your rules for communicating before you get angry
2. Talk to people the way you want people to speak to you?

### **Two Verses That Should Inspire You:**

#### **1. Matthew 7:12**

- 12 Therefore, **whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (NKJV)

#### **2. Galatians 6:7-10**

- 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also** reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

### **Next Time:**

- A courageous conversation about **the way we manage seasons** (How your disciplines should match your season)

### **Read Ahead: James 5:7-12**