

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 26

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Wise Use of the Tongue

Key Passage: Proverbs 20:15

Related Passages: Proverbs 10:21; 11:30;
16:21; and 16:23

Sermon Date: March 30, 2008

The wise teach and instruct with their speech

This week we continue to look at the use of the tongue in Proverbs. Last week we looked at the power of truth and falsehood in our speech. This week we will be looking at the use of the tongue for teaching and instructing.

What makes a good teacher? As you think of your best teachers, what qualities made them stand out?

Was it the way that they presented their material: with humor, illustration, and sensitivity? Was it their devoted study and reflection upon a subject which allowed them to speak with great authority? Was it mastery of the subject that gave their presentation such clarity? Did their presentation reveal great enthusiasm and passion that caught you up and pulled you along?

What fills our hearts will flow from our lips. Wouldn't every believer love to win souls and disciple others for Christ? Are you such a teacher to your children, friends, family members? Let's look together at how wise speech instructs.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
2. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 20:15 (NIV)</p> <p>20:15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance,</p> <p>but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.</p> <hr/> <p>10:21 The lips of the righteous nourish many,</p> <p>but fools die for lack of judgment</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,</p> <p>and he who wins souls is wise.</p> <hr/> <p>16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning,</p> <p>and pleasant words promote instruction.</p> <hr/> <p>16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth,</p> <p>and his lips promote instruction.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. 4 Proverbs 20:15 tells us that “lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel”.
 - a. What knowledge or saying it another way “knowledge of what” is this Proverb referring to? Consider Proverbs 1:29-32; 3:13-15; 8:9-11 and Jeremiah 9:12-26.
 - b. What are some kinds of knowledge that might be even more precious than gold?

5. Proverbs 10:21 says that “fools die for lack of judgment”. Looking at Proverbs 9:4, 11:12, 12:11, 24:30 and 28:16 what are the characteristics of a person who lacks judgment? How would you summarize these characteristics?

6. Proverbs 11:30 says “the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life”.
 - a. What might the fruit of the righteous be? Consider Matthew 7:15-20.
 - b. What could be some similarities between “the fruit of the righteous” and the “tree of life”? Look at Proverbs 3:13-18, Genesis 2:9, Revelation 2:7 and Revelation 22:2.

7. Proverbs 16:21 says “the wise in heart are called discerning and Proverbs 16:23 tells us that “a wise man’s heart guides his mouth”. How does the heart of a wise person guide their words? Consider James 3:17-18 and I Peter 3:13-22.

8. Proverbs 16:21 says “the wise in heart are called discerning”. Look at Proverbs 1:5, 14:6, 15:14 and 19:25, what common traits do you find in these verses for a discerning person?

9. How does the tone of our words affect our ability to teach someone? Provide examples.

10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 20:15

20:15 Gold there is, and rubies in abundance,
but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel.

The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 4:16-17 says “therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I am sending you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.”

The Apostle Paul was a man of wisdom who taught and instructed with his words as is evident by the several books of the New Testament that he wrote. Could you tell someone at this moment in time, “imitate me” do what I do because I have it right? Not many of us could say that.

How is someone able to make a statement like that? The answer lies in being totally committed to a cause that you believe in so much that all of your waking, breathing life you are committed to following and pursuing that cause. Paul’s cause was the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He had such a union with Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, that he could say “do as I do”.

Do you have a lover for Jesus Christ that makes you want to be 120% committed to him? (Anything less insults his grace in coming, living, dying and rising to save you.) You can experience his life-changing, heart-expanding love right now! Confess your sinfulness and receive him as Lord and Savior. Romans 6:23 says “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

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