



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Proverbs: Becoming Wise with our Words

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

The Book of Proverbs contains great importance on how we use our words. Our words can bring great healing or great harm. Learning how to use our words wisely is something that we must do throughout the entirety of our lives.

In thinking about your words this past week, what type of words have you been speaking over others? Words that healed or harmed, words that were truthful or contained lies or words that were honorable or flippant? Once our words are spoken, they can never be taken back.

We know the power of life and death in the power of our words. Because of all the technological advances we have made our words go farther into places that we never dreamed of, with the potential to stay outside for our entire lives. More than anything, the world needs wise speech, and we must all pay attention to our words and the words that we speak over one another.

The book of Proverbs covers many themes but has more to say about our words than other subject. This is true because our words matter. They matter in our conversations, emails, texts, phone calls and social media. For many of us, the tension we experience in our lives is due to our use of foolish words.

The book of Proverbs is thousands of years old but still holds relevance for us today. We have all experienced what it is like to say something that is wrong, using death words over others. At the same time, we have also been on the receiving end of death words. Not only is the outside world marked by death words, but our interior world is marked by death words, which have power to label and marginalize us. Words that diminish and marginalize us are lies and God speaks a better and truer word over you today. Death words don't have to have the last word.

The words in Proverbs are to jolt us, as this is a matter of life and death.

We turn to the Gospel because the Gospel has good news for us. The good news of Christianity is that death words don't have to have the last word. God's word is more powerful than any other words spoken over you.

Jesus is the word that comes over you and overcomes the death words spoken to you. The degree to which we sit in this new reality is the degree to which can release those death words so that they will not have power over us.

Jesus speaks words over us so much so that it diminishes any death words spoken over us. Unfortunately, the temptation for us when we are wounded is to take our woundedness and put that back out to the world. The book of Proverbs invites us to take what the Father has spoken over us and use those words for healing.

Becoming Wise with our Words:

1. Talk less, listen more.
2. When you are angry, wait to speak.
3. Be willing to tell the truth even if the cost is high.
4. Choose your words and timing carefully.

May we be led by the Holy Spirit into a wise life that Christ died for us to have.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series on the book of Proverbs. Pastor Rich explores the importance of becoming wise with our words and what it looks like for us to become wise with our words.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, growing up what type of words were spoken over you? Did you hear words of truth, love and affirmation or were words that harmed you and made you feel shame spoken over you? How does your experience growing up inform the way you speak over those around you today? Journal about your responses to these questions, offering them up to God.
3. How do you feel when you hear Pastor Rich say the way we use our words are a “matter of life and death” How have been using your words over the past week or so? Have your words brought healing and health to those around you, or have your words brought harm and death to those around you? Set aside silent time for reflection, journaling if necessary. Can you share this with someone – a trusted brother or sister in Christ?
4. Where in the listing below do you feel the Holy Spirit calling you now to help you become wise with your words? Ask God for wisdom and guidance as you answer this question. Are you able to share your answer to this question with your small group or a trusted brother or sister in Christ?
 - Talk less, listen more.
 - When you are angry, wait to speak.
 - Be willing to tell the truth even if the cost is high.
 - Choose your words and timing carefully.