

GIVING WORDS

I. Various Scriptures

A. James 3:2-12 (ESV), the brother of Jesus writes to us and says: 2 *For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3* *If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4* *Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5* *So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6* *And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7* *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8* *but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9* *With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11* *Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12* *Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.*

B. Today is the first Sunday of Advent. That means Christmas is coming in just a few weeks, the celebration of the Incarnation--*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!* And yes, everything will seem different this year. Long held traditions may need to be altered. Some people won't put out as many lights. Others will put out twice the amount of lights. Statements can be made either way. And while we won't be lighting purple and pink candles this year, we hope to light the candles of your heart, igniting your celebrations of the Messiah's first coming, the promise of His second coming, and all the things we're called to do in the interim.

C. This season I want us to focus on Giving. Relax, that doesn't mean taking up extra offerings. (See the white bucket by the hedge or the little basket in the back of the Chapel for that type of giving.) Each Sunday I hope to focus on a different aspect of giving. Last week we talked about *giving thanks* and doing so in all circumstances and situations. Today I want to share about *giving words*.

D. An old adage says, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." Most of us know from experience how untrue that phrase is. Proverbs 25:15 (NIV) counters: "Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone." Proverbs 18:21 (AMPC) counters even stronger: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]." But Proverbs 25:11 (NIV) is about words that lift up and encourage, words that minister, convict, console, and restore: "A word aptly spoken (*OV "fitly"*) is like apples of gold in settings of silver. (What we say can be immensely valuable, encouraging, even life-changing. Ever receive a word that came at just the right time and was exactly what you needed to hear?

E. The Scriptures are the mines where godly prospectors go for words of great treasure. In Psalm 19:14 (NIV) the psalmist prays: 14 *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock, and my Redeemer. (May that be so and then some! God give us such words!)*

F. It's common knowledge that when people get stranded in the ocean, after days adrift at the sea, their throats become parched from thirst and they become dehydrated, sickly, even delirious. At such times the temptation is to drink sea water. But salt water is toxic. The body can't filter out the salt, the kidneys start shutting down, and the results are fatal. When those adrift resist the temptation to drink from the ocean, who wait to collect fresh water from rainfall, their thirst will be quenched and they may live to see another day. Survival depends on fresh water...

G. The words of this dark world are likewise toxic, foul, and contaminated. But the Word of God is pure water that can quench a thirsty person's soul. The Bible is like 66 spring-fed streams of fresh water. Drink from them and live! Fill your canteens from those streams and share that with every thirsty soul you meet! Jesus said in Matthew 10:42 (NLT) "*And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.*"

H. Know any weary souls? I suspect you all know some folks who are weary, heavily burdened, downtrodden. Maybe weary from COVID. Or something else. Many get that way this time of year anyway. Satan seems to whisper louder during the holy days. But the voice of God shouts from the pages of Scripture. Might we not want to share them? Isaiah 50:4-5 (NLT) says it beautifully: *4 The Sovereign LORD has given me His words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning He awakens me and opens my understanding to His will. 5 The Sovereign LORD has spoken to me, and I have listened. I have not rebelled or turned away. (When we pray for God to illuminate His Word, we aren't just praying He does that for me and mine, but also for others round about us!)*

I. What might you share with someone you know who's weary, deeply burdened or discouraged? Maybe start with Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV): *28 "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* (Dip your canteen in that stream and share it with those crawling through the desert!)

J. So what will you write in that Christmas card you send? What will you pen in that note you slip in your neighbors door or lay on your co-worker's desk or tape on your classmate's locker? What will you say in that long overdue call you've been wanting to make? What might that post say on your social network? What encouragement will you utter from behind your mask that will change someone's day or maybe even their life? As you open your mouths, may God fill them with words that lift up and transform, soothe the pain and bring comfort, quicken hearts and awaken the dead to life in Christ! Yield your hearts and tongues to Him!

*** Close with Prayer...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[James 3:2-12 \(ESV\)](#)

2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. **11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Proverbs 25:15 (NIV)

15 Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Proverbs 18:21 (AMPC)

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life].

Proverbs 25:11 (NIV)

11 A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Psalms 19:14 (NIV)

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

Isaiah 50:4-5 (NLT)

4 The Sovereign LORD has given me His words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning He wakens me and opens my understanding to His will. **5** The Sovereign LORD has spoken to me, and I have listened. I have not rebelled or turned away.

Matthew 10:42 (NLT)

42 And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

28 "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

[Video Clips & Important Articles](#)

"Let the Words of My Mouth" - Fernando Ortega
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TlgfoH_mzk

"Psalm 19" - Jess Ray
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICmGsqtNSEs>

"O Come O Come Emmanuel/Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" - The Petersens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKEUIJRQVbA>

Out of the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth Speaks - Greg Laurie
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AERbWLFp8M>

"Rend the Heavens" - Rend Collective (On the Street in Dublin, Ireland)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVxcK-CosrU>

[Bonus Stuff](#)

[Proverbs 15:1-2 \(AMP\)](#)

1 A soft and gentle and thoughtful answer turns away wrath, but harsh and painful and careless words stir up anger. **2** The tongue of the wise speaks knowledge that is pleasing and acceptable, but the [babbling] mouth of fools spouts folly.

[Proverbs 15:23 \(AMP\)](#)

23 A man has joy in giving an appropriate answer, and how good and delightful is a word spoken at the right moment--how good it is!

[Psalm 37:30 \(ESV\)](#)

30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice.

[Matthew 12:34-37 \(ESV\)](#)

34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. **35** The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. **36** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, **37** for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

[Colossians 4:4:5-6 \(ESV\)](#)

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

The Word of God - The Common Book of Prayer

"Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou has given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever, Amen."

The Word of God - The Westminster Confession

"Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testament, which are these: etc... All which are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life. The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture; unto which nothing at any time is to be added whether by new revelations of the Spirit or traditions of men."

- Westminster Confession, Chapter 1, section VI, 1646.

This Book:

An unknown writer wrote what was formerly found in the introductory pages of Gideon Bibles: This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.

Quote by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

"We all therefore have to face this ultimate and final question: Do we accept the Bible as the Word of God, as the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice, or do we not? Is the whole of my thinking governed by Scripture, or do I come with my reason and pick and choose out of Scripture and sit in judgment upon it, putting myself and modern knowledge forward as the ultimate standard and authority? The issue is crystal clear. Do I accept Scripture as a revelation from God, or do I trust to speculation, human knowledge, human learning, human understanding and human reasons. Or, putting it still more simply, do I pin my faith to, and subject all my thinking to, what I read in the Bible? Or do I defer to modern knowledge, to modern learning, to what people think today, to what we know at this present time which was not known in the past? It is inevitable that we occupy one or the other of those two positions."

Quote by John Stott

"Our claim is that God has revealed Himself by speaking; that this divine (or God-breathed) speech has been written down and preserved in Scripture; and that Scripture is, in fact, God's Word written, which therefore is true and reliable and has divine authority over men."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"When a man is filled with the Word of God you cannot keep him still, If a man has got the Word, he must speak or die."

Quote by Thomas Fuller

"If I speak what is false, I must answer for it; if truth, it will answer for me."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"I would go to the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary."

Quote by Lin Pearson

"We can never hear the warning often enough. The tongue (or typing finger) may be small, but oh so deadly when not under the sanctifying grace of God."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"Learn to say *no*. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin."

John Wesley to Hotheaded Woman

"A hotheaded woman told John Wesley, *'My talent is to speak my mind.'* Replied Mr. Wesley, *'Woman, God wouldn't care a bit if you would bury that talent.'*"

Quote by Robert Frost

"Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it."

Quote by Mark Twain

"The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug."

Quote by Garrison Keillor

"English is the perfect language for preachers because it allows you to talk until you think of what to say."