

Lesson No. (38)
Victory of Tongue

References:

Notes for Servants:

Objectives:

General: Control our mouth

Specific:

1. Practice not to talk unless you have to
2. When you talk use the right words and the right time
3. You must apologize if you notice that you offended someone

Instructions:

1. Review last week's lesson.

Bible Verse:

**“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight,
O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer”**
(Ps. 19:14).

Lesson:

Victory of Tongue

Introduction

It has been said that the “tongue” is one of the most exercised muscles of our body. It has been estimated that in a typical week, the average person will speak enough words to fill a 500 page book! However, for the Christian, the use of the tongue must be a matter of careful forethought and discipline. The Bible warns that believers who do not bring restraint to their tongue and speech have been deceived and without such control over their words, their religious acts are worthless and hypocritical. “If anyone among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain”. (James 1:26). It is a deception for any of us to think that Jesus can be Lord over our life, without also becoming Lord over our tongue. The reference to a “bridle” in the previous verse is the leather harness and bit placed in a horse’s mouth to control it. In the same manner, Christians must allow the Holy Spirit to bridle their tongue, and bring restraint to their words.

- Proverbs 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.
- James 1:19-20 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God

desires.

Hypocrisy of the Tongue

Elsewhere, James gave a warning in (James 3:9-10) of the evil poison of the tongue. He described some who try to use their tongue as praise and blessing to God, then turn around to use their tongue to speak evil of one another. “Therewith we bless God, even the Father and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be”. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be “.

Mouth Sins are not Trivial

Mouth sins such as gossip, backbiting, and slander have become viewed as little habits that aren't really so serious. However, when Paul wrote to the church at Rome he sternly contended that gossips, slanderers, and bad-mouthers were in the same league as murderers, sexual perverts, and haters of God. Furthermore, he said such sins are worthy of a death sentence (Rom. 1:28-32).

Some have experienced problems to get answers to their prayers, because of their mouth sins. Using their tongue to ridicule, gossip about, or to slander others is clearly sin and as we know, unrepentant sin cuts off the flow of God's answers to their prayers. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear me” (Ps 66:18). Those who have mouth problems are destined to experience much trouble in their life and will not find it easy to obtain God's help with their.

Accountable for all our Words

Jesus warned that our words are so important that they will actually determine our condemnation or justification. He said we will be held responsible for all our words, even our careless, idle words. “But I say to you that for every idle word men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matt. 12:36-37).

Elsewhere, Paul cautioned believers to disallow any corrupt or worthless talk to come from our mouth. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth .“ (Eph. 4:29).

Words spoken in anger and bitterness cannot be taken back, The damage can not be undone:

A man slandered a friend and later went to the priest for confession. He said to the priest. I want to make peace with God for my vicious words. the priest told him to fill a bag with goose feathers and drop them on the door of every home in the village. So he did it. then he came back to the priest and said. What must I do?. The priest said, Take your bag and go collect all feathers, When the man tried to collect the feathers He could not find one. He went back to priest and told him the wind had blown the feathers away. The priest said, and so it is your words. they are easily dropped, but you can never collect them again.

Unfortunately, sometimes we use our tongues to swear, lie, criticize others and to gossip.

Our tongue is a weapon. If we use it to say good things, it can defend us from the devil. If we use our tongues to say bad things, it becomes a weapon against us and God.

If you use your tongue to say good things, that means inside, you're a good person. The same goes if you use your tongue to say bad things.

Conversations:

When you have daily conversations with your friends and relatives, try not to use God's name. If one of your friends uses one of the names of God, explain to him why he shouldn't.

Lying:

Lying is one of the worst sins of the tongue. Usually when you tell a lie it just gets bigger and bigger. For example.. you go to the corner store alone without permission, when you get home, your mom asks you where you were. You say you were at the park. She asks you who you went with. You name 2 or 3 friendB of yours. Your mom keeps asking questions and you keep lying. Usually you get in more trouble. Sometimes, when we do something wrong we blame someone else. Proverbs 12:22 says: "Lying tongue is an abomination to the Lord".

Swearing:

Swearing is a major sin, especially when you swear in the name of the Lord as we said earlier. The worst sin any one can do is go to church to pray and take communion then when church is over some kids start to bug you and you swear at them. Saint John said: "Can one spring of water give two different kinds of water?".

Gossip:

Another major sin is gossip. When you gossip, you ruin someone's reputation. If you tell someone what a person did wrong, he/she will go tell someone else and soon every one will know, and soon enough that person will have no friends.

Before you go and gossip, ask your self these three questions:

1. Is it true? are you sure?
2. Do you have to go and tell? if you do, that's when you ruin someone's reputation. Remember.. everyone makes mistakes'
3. Is it nice to go and tell? Usually it is not nice to go and tell. How would you feel if someone told on you?

Jesting:

Definition: joking bad jokes and making fun of poor and handicapped people. If you make fun of a friend or one of their relatives or their friends, remember you're taking a risk of losing a friend. The book of proverbs says: Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished". Saint Mathew also said:

"But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be Justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned".

To keep silent or to talk:

A person often wonders which is better to keep silent or to talk. It is known that most saints preferred silence, keeping in mind the saying of Solomon the sage: "Much talk will not be free of error". In this respect Saint Arsenlus made his well known statement: " It happened many times that I regretted having spoken, but I was never regretful as a result of my silence". This Is why the prophet David prayed saying: "O God, put a guard for my mouth and a fortified door for my lips."

The Divine inspiration also says: “To listen is better than to talk.”

Saints preferred silence, not only to avoid errors of the tongue, but also to gain an opportunity for prayer and meditation. This is why the Spiritual Elder said: “Keep your tongue quite so your heart may speak.” Saint Isaac said: “A person who speaks much shows that he is empty inside.” This means that his heart is void of communication with God and of spiritual work in prayer.

Beneficial speech:

There still remains an important question: is silence always a virtue and is all talk a sin? Certainly not for the prophet David says in the psalm: “My heart overflowed with useful speech.” This means that there is useful beneficial talk. This is when we talk about good deeds. People train themselves in silence so as to be able to speak beneficial words.

Silence then, is a means of protection for us if we are talking with a human motive, but if it is God who opens our lips and who puts the words in our mouths, it is talking and not silence that will be a virtue.

The Lord Jesus used to talk and people used to wonder at the words spoken by Him.

The martyr St. Stephen spoke and convinced those in the synagogue so much so that they could not oppose the wisdom and the spirit with which he was talking.

Beneficial words include those of advise, of comfort, of encouragement, of spiritual guidance etc. There is a special time for silence and a special time for talking. For example, a priest can't keep silent if he is to give a sermon. You cannot keep silent when you go to confession. We should train ourselves always to have beneficial talk.

Conclusion