



Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

- Our problem is that we have a **two-faced** heart.

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

- God wants to give us a **new heart**.

And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NLT)

No one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praises and curses. We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water? James 3:8-12 (CEV)

- How we use our words **matters** to God.

...with our tongues we speak both praises and curses....this isn't right. James 3:9a (CEV)

- We speak of God's greatness and curse His **creation**.

We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. James 3:10 (CEV)

- Our words reveal **who** we are.

Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water? James 3:11-12 (CEV)

If we want a New Heart for a New Year:

- We need to deal with the **source** of our words.

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. Matthew 12:34 (NLT)

The condition of our **heart** defines what we say and how we say it.

A good person produces good words from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart. Matthew 12:35 (NLT)

The real problem isn't our **tongue**, it's our **heart**.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:7-8 (NIV)

How we change our words:

- Allow God to **change my heart**.

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Psalm 51:10 (TLB)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD... Psalm 19:14 (NLT)

- Put a **filter** on what I **allow in my heart**.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

- Speak life-giving words to **others** every chance you get.

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose. Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)

We need to speak:

Words of **affection**.

Words of **grace**.

Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out. Colossians 4:6 (MSG)

Words of **healing**.

Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim. Proverbs 15:4 (MSG)

Careless words stab like a sword, but the words of wise people bring healing. Proverbs 12:18 (GW)

Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say. Psalm 141:3 (NIV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think we have a heart that is two-faced? Explain.
- Do you think it's easy for us to dismiss the importance of our words? Explain.
- As you reflect on your life, do you see yourself becoming more like Jesus through the years? Explain.
- Do you think it's important that we should "want" to be like Jesus? Why?
- Why do our words matter to God?
- Again, this is not "Behavior modification". What are some of the values in Jesus' life that shaped his words? How would our words change if we would share his same values?
- Do you find it to be true that our heart shapes our words and then our words shape our lives? Why is that true?
- How do you allow God to change your heart? (What does that mean and look like?)
- Are there filters you need to put on your heart?
- How can we speak words of grace and healing to others?

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Today's Talk..



A Heart that Speaks Life

Sunday, February 4th, 2024

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