

Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, May 10, 2015

God's Rx for My Speech

Proverbs 15

As you begin your group, share some responses to the following two quotes. What are they trying to say about words and speech? How have these two quotes proven true in your own experience?

"I read in a book once that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but I've never been able to believe it. I don't believe a rose WOULD be as nice if it was called a thistle or a skunk cabbage." L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

"Words are like eggs dropped from great heights; you can no more call them back than ignore the mess they leave when they fall." Jodi Picoult, *Salem Falls*

1. Proverbs 18:21 says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. Re-read Proverbs 15 (Sunday's Bible text) and describe the ways this chapter of Proverbs says words can be either destructive or healing. What, specifically, are these verses saying about our words?

2. Read the New Testament passages on human speech listed below and answer the following questions. (Add other relevant New Testament passages that come to your mind but aren't listed here.)

- James 3:5-10
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11
- Colossians 4:2-6
- Ephesians 4:29
- Ephesians 5:18-21

- What is so difficult about taming the human tongue?
- Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not very serious?
- Why is it sometimes difficult for us to give encouragement?
- How has someone in the church effectively encouraged you in the past?
- Of the "diseases of the tongue" mentioned Sunday, which do you deal with most frequently?
 - the lying (deceitful) tongue
 - the hasty tongue
 - the arguing tongue
 - the divisive tongue
 - the boastful tongue
 - the slandering tongue
 - the gossiping tongue
 - the meddling tongue
 - the know-it-all tongue
 - the harsh tongue
- Which of the diseases of the tongue are we, as Christians, slowest to admit and confess?
- What weaknesses in our lives do these "diseases" reveal?

3. Of the four-part prescription for speech given Sunday from Proverbs 15 (words that are pleasant, wise, prayerful, and timely) which is your greatest need? What practical advice would you give someone (or yourself) who needed more pleasant, wise, prayerful, or timely speech in their life? In other words, what are some practical ways to begin using wise words, ... pleasant words, ... words more engaged in prayer, ... words that are timely in their impact?

4. What does it mean to you to be "filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18-21)?

- Hint: compare with Esther 3:5 ("filled with rage"), Luke 6:11 ("filled with rage"), and Eph 5:18 ("drunk with wine").

- How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit ? (Hints : Matthew 7:11 and 1 John 1:9).