

What Is in the Well, Will Be in the Bucket

by Thomas Brooks

The sermon explores the profound connection between our hearts and our speech, urging mindfulness in our words to avoid harm and reflect God's truth.

Scripture: Psalm 19:4, Psalm 52:2, Psalm 73:9, Proverbs 18:21, Ecclesiastes 5:2, Ecclesiastes 8:4, Ecclesiastes 10:12-13, Matthew 12:36, Matthew 28:13-15

Topics: "The Power of Words", "Guarding Our Speech"

Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes the significance of our words, warning that every idle word will be accounted for on the day of judgment, as stated in Matthew 12:36. He categorizes various types of talkers, including idle, over, only, unprofitable, unseasonable, and rash talkers, highlighting the dangers of speaking without thought. Brooks asserts that the tongue reveals the true state of the heart, and what is in the well (the heart) will be in the bucket (the mouth). He cautions that the tongue can lead to ruin and encourages carefulness in speech, as it can cause harm to others and ourselves. Ultimately, he calls for vigilance over our words, as they hold the power of life and death.

Transcript

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36

There are many idle talkers. An idle word is a profuse or needless word, used rashly or unadvisedly, lacking a reason of just necessity, bringing neither honor to God nor edification to others, nor conducing to any profitable end.

And as there are many idle talkers, so there are many over-talkers; and they are such who spend a hundred

words when ten will serve the turn.

And as there are many over-talkers, so there are many who are only-talkers, who can do nothing but talk.

And as there are many who are only talkers, so there are many who are unprofitable talkers. "The beginning of the words of their mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is mischievous madness," Eccles. 10:13.

And as there are many unprofitable talkers, so there are many unseasonable talkers, who place one word where another should stand. "A wise man discerns time and judgment," Eccles. 8:4.

And as there are many unseasonable talkers, so there are many rash talkers, who speak first and think afterwards, Eccles. 5:2.

God has set a double bar about the tongue--the teeth and the lips--that men should not speak rashly. Words once spoken cannot return. A man who thinks before he speaks, seldom repents of what he speaks. Silence is far better than rash speaking, or than vain speaking, etc.

O sirs, the tongue is the true revealer of the heart. If there is piety or iniquity at the bottom of your hearts, your tongues will reveal it. What is in the well, will be in the bucket.

Just so, what is in the heart, will be in the mouth. If there is anything of God, of Christ, of grace, of heaven, of hell, of sin, of the world, of self in the bottom of your souls, your tongues will reveal it.

A man's heart may sometimes be seen at his tongue's end.

Many a man's tongue has cut his throat; that is, it has been his ruin.

The Holy Spirit shows the mischief of the tongue, by the several characters by which he brands it. He calls it the flattering tongue, the double tongue, the deceitful tongue, the lying tongue, the perverse tongue, etc., Psalm 52:2; Proverbs 18:21; Eccles. 10:12; Psalm 19:4, and 73:9; Mat. 28:13, 15.

The tongue is often like a sharp razor, that, instead of shaving the hair, cuts the throat. If a man does not look well about him, he may every day be in danger of dying by his tongue. "Life and death," says Solomon, "are in the power of the tongue," Prov. 18:21.

Ah, how good had it been for many that they had been born dumb! The tongue can easily travel all the world over, and wound men's names and credits in this country; and that in this city and that in this town, and that in this family, and that in an instant run from one place to another: here it bites, and there it tears: in this place it leaves a blot, and in that it gives a wound; and therefore you have cause to watch your tongues on every day.

O sirs, how many men and women are there who are discriminating about what they eat, who are not discriminating about what they speak; who are particular about the food which goes into their mouths, lest it should hurt or poison them, who are not particular about the words that go out of their mouths, lest they should hurt or poison others!

Of all the members in the body, there is none so serviceable to Satan as the tongue.

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