

Words Yield an Assignment

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier

Darnella Ferguson, Small Groups Ministry Coordinator

Objective: Many of us are familiar with the term, “Loose lips, sink ships”. This term was coined during the time of World War II. It certainly has a ring to it, but it also has a hint of truth to it. As we study, we will be reminded of the direct impact our words have on our lives. May our words not become snipers of our destiny!

Key Scripture:

Proverbs 18:21 NIV

21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Words projected towards self and others:

“I’m ugly!” “I’m fearfully and wonderfully made.”

“I’m weak!” “I’m strong in the Lord...”

“You’re worthless!” “You’re God’s workmanship.”

“You can’t do anything right!” “You can do all things...”



Week 1:

The Fruit:

Pause: Take a moment to visualize the path, in which, the above phrases on the left lead to. Now, visualize the path for the phrases on the right.

Group Discussion: *Where can each path potentially lead? Has your path noticeably improved from times past? Would you care to share a testimony?*

Know this! -- Fruit will be produced either way. The difference is, one will prove to be rotten at its core and the other filled with all the good nutrients we need to live a fulfilled life!

God describes good fruit:

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

WORDS YIELD AN ASSIGNMENT – JULY 2022

Matthew 7:18 NIV

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

For the sake of this lesson, our words represent the tree. The fruit represents the direct result of the assignment our words created.

It is of the utmost importance that we take heed to **Joshua 1:8**.

8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

As we begin to meditate on the Word of God, there is a certain level of intimacy (closeness) we will attain. There is no healthy fruitfulness without intimacy!

A wise man once said that meditation is the digestive system of the Spirit. As we continue to meditate on the word of God and allow it to become completely absorbed into our spirits and ultimately penetrate our hearts; our words will begin to align and yield fruitful assignments.

Luke 6:45 NIV

45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

What is your heart full of?

Time of Reflection:

- Are you easily angered?
- Do you walk in love?
- Are you exhibiting the oil of joy?
- Are you walking in peace?
- Are you exhibiting forbearance (patience, restraint, tolerance)?
- Are you showing kindness towards your family, friends and strangers?
- Are your words filled with goodness?
- Are you faithful (dependable, holding firm to the word of God)?
- Are you gentle in your responses/actions?
- Do you fly off the handle and lose self-control?
- How do you think others feel when they leave your presence?

Let's sit with these questions this week. 1) Take time to be vulnerable before God, 2) ask Him for help in areas that need improvement, 3) repent, and 4) leave it there!

Week 2:

Words Spoken in Jest:

Be very careful what we allow to casually flow out of our mouths.

Group Discussion: *Have you ever found yourself stating one of the phrases below?*

“Break a leg!” – A statement often used in society to encourage someone to do well in a particular task they are embarking upon; yet yields an assignment of harm.

“You make me sick!” – A statement often used in jest, however, yields an assignment of sickness.

“I’m broke!” – A statement yielding an assignment of lack.

“I always seem to take two steps forward and three steps backward!” – A statement yielding an assignment of non-progression.

“I could never speak in public!” – A statement yielding an assignment of fear *and* paralysis.

“I can’t win for losin’!” – A statement yielding an assignment of defeat.

“I’m dead!” – A statement most recently used when someone is in the process of laughing at a hysterically funny joke. Death may not occur in an instant, but it is much like a chiseling away of the years, yielding an assignment of premature death.

“Dementia, Cancer and Diabetes run in my family!” – A statement yielding an assignment of disease and a clear indication that generational curses have not been denounced.

*****REMINDER:** Words have power, even when they are stated in jest.

One might say, “God is looking at my heart and knows I didn’t literally mean it”, but the devil is looking for an opportunity...any opportunity...

Proverbs 18:7 (NIV) – A fool’s mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

What is foolish? – lacking good sense or judgment, unwise; thoughtless

Let’s think before we speak & Speak as our Heavenly Father speaks!

Genesis 1:21 NIV

21 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Our Heavenly Father created us to be like Him. Our lives should reflect His very essence. He spoke things into existence.

Psalms 33:9 NIV

33 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

The phrase, “It came to be” equates to the fruit of the assignment and we know that everything God spoke was and is good. The same should be true for us!

Week 3:

If You Have Nothing Good to Say...Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!

What Did Zechariah Say?

Luke 1:5-25

5 In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. 6 Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. 7 But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

8 Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came; all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

18 Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years.”

19 The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home. 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

The response (words of doubt) that Zechariah had spoken, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years”, released an assignment that would have aborted the destiny of John the Baptist’s birth, as well as the lives of those he was destined to impact throughout his journey. The angel, Gabriel, knew it and immediately blocked the assignment by temporarily removing the power of

WORDS YIELD AN ASSIGNMENT – JULY 2022

Zechariah's words until after the birth. Zechariah was undoubtedly a good man and everything he stated was factual, but it wasn't the truth! God's word is the truth, and we must come into agreement with the truth despite the facts. For those who struggle with this concept...take a moment of silence...Shhhhhhhhhh!

If You Have Something Good to Say...Take the Floor!

What Did King David Say?

In May's life group lesson, we studied King David's battle with Goliath. We highlighted his understanding of the covenant he had with God. Let's look at another important angle.

I Samuel 17:34-37; 45-47

34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

I Samuel 17:48-50

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand, he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

Group Discussion: Do you think the way, in which, the battle played out was a mere coincidence?

King David was met with much resistance from his peers, as he approached the scene, yet he remained focused. In I Samuel 17:34-37; 45-47, we observe King David's words in action. He was confident, deliberate and very specific about the words he'd spoken. His words yielded an assignment. The precision of where the stone was aimed, and the inevitable defeat of Goliath became the assignment. As seen in I Samuel 17:48-50, the fruit of that assignment was victory. The moment David's words were released into the atmosphere and before he put his sling shot into motion, the battle was already won, because the assignment had already been established!!!

Week 4:

Jesus' Words Carry A lot of Weight

Let's review the time when Jesus called Lazarus from the grave.

John 11:38-44

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Jesus' kingdom-filled words far outweighed the words of doubt Martha released. As soon as Jesus said, "Take away the stone", the assignment had been produced and that assignment was to raise Lazarus from the dead.

Discussion Question: Can you imagine what might have occurred if Jesus had not specifically said "Lazarus, come out?"

Jesus' words were powerful enough to raise multiple people from the dead at one time, but he had a specific word for a specific individual/assignment.

We learned of another instance of the power of Jesus' words when he cursed the fig tree.

Mark 11:12-13, 20-21

12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

WORDS YIELD AN ASSIGNMENT – JULY 2022

All Jesus had to do was speak a word!

Discussion Question: What resonated with you most in this lesson?

John 16:12-15

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

May the Spirit of glory guide us into all truth, so we may begin to speak the truth and experience all that You have for us in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.