

How We Speak Matters

Does it matter what we say or how we say it? Jesus shows us that it *does* make a difference in content and intent. Even the world around us will recognize that it's important how say what you're going to say. Think about what we should consider each day about the things we say.

A. What Jesus taught us about how we speak

1. Intent – it is important to use some foresight it what we're going to say (*Prov. 29:20; 18:2; Luke 14:28-29, 30-31*) It is a matter of the heart (*Matt. 12:34-35*).
2. Content – The actual things we say have meaning and impact. What kinds of words are we speaking and why does it matter? (*Matt. 12:35-37; Prov. 19:1, 14; 16:24*)
3. How we represent ourselves – speaking clearly, honestly, and directly (*Matt 5:37; 1 Pet. 3:10-12; Heb. 13:18*)

B. What does our speech look like every day?

1. Do you _____? (*Prov. 12:22; 6:16-20; Rev.21:8*)
2. Are you _____? (*2 Cor. 8:21; Phil. 4:8; Prov. 11:3; Acts 24:16*)
3. How do you speak when you're _____? (*Prov.15:1; 16:32; Ep. 4:29,32*)
4. If we're not careful, we keep talking without really _____ much. (*Prov. 17:8; 18:2; 10:19*)
5. There are certain kinds of _____ talk that we should want to avoid. (*Titus 3:9-10; Prov. 18:8; James 4:11*)
6. Does what we say make us _____? (*Deut. 23:23; Acts 5:1-10; Prov.6:1-3*)
7. How we talk can be a reflection of our true _____? (*James 3:8-12; 1:26; Titus 2:7-8*)
8. Does what you say _____ to God? (*1 Pet.4:11; Eph.4:15*)
9. Can you speak in ways that will _____ others? (*Prov. 18:21; John 6:68; 1 Cor. 2:1-5*)

What we say is important, remember to use it in ways that will build up and lead to Jesus. (*Prov. 25:11*)