

Pastor recently berated his congregation for not buying him a Luxury watch- *“Let me kick down the door and talk to my cheap sons and daughters,”* said Pastor Carlton Funderburke on August 7. *“You can buy a Movado watch in Sam’s, and y’all know I asked for one last year. Here it is the whole way in August, I still ain’t got it.”* Funderburke, founding senior pastor of Church at the Well in Kansas City, further tells his congregants: *“This is how I know you’re still poor, broke, busted, and disgusted—because of how you been honoring me. I’m not worth your McDonald’s money? I’m not worth your Red Lobster money?”* Later came out and apologized - problem is the damage was already done.

As a man of God - you will desperately need the ability to control the words you speak

This is a **life lesson**, this is a **relationship lesson** and this is **pastoral lesson**

**James 3:3–6** When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. **4** Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. **5** Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **6** The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

## I. THE REALITY OF WORDS WE SPEAK

### A. The Nature of words

1. Gods design in creation: Words have power

**Genesis 1:3–3** And God said, *“Let there be light,”* and there was light.

- a) God spoke creation into existence- His words created all of life

2. Our words have the ability to change the course of life

- a) Our scripture shows us that the tongue can change the direction of a persons life

**James 3: 3-4** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we **guide** their whole bodies as well.

**4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are **guided** by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

- b) Emphasis here - Guide guided - Direction word - words take people somewhere

3. Words have the power to change your current situation

- a) The bible says that what ever we bind on earth will be bound- loosed on earth loosed in heaven- this is supernatural- WORDS WE SPEAK ARE NOT NEUTRAL

**Matthew 18:18** Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

- b) Words we speak but also words we hear - who you allow to speak into your life has an effect

### B. The Power of words

1. Power to destroy -The effect of your words will be far reaching and uncontrolled

**James 3:5** Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

- a) The unintended consequences from our words will not be able to be drawn back- the effects of those words will be as a wild fire burning out of control.

2. Things you want to see happen in your life are canceled out by your words

**James 3:9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

- a) It’s possible that in the house of God we can say kind and praise worthy things to God yet with the same mouth speak curses to other people/ words that damage and cut.

**Proverbs 6:16–19** These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: **17** A proud look, **A lying tongue,** Hands that shed innocent blood, **18** A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, **19** **A false witness who speaks lies,** And **one who sows discord among brethren.**

- b) 3 of the 7 have to do with words.

3. In ministry- words you speak have incredible potential to either tear down or build up

- a) The frustrated Pastor - taking everything personally - using the pulpit as a club to beat people with

Old saying: the beatings will continue until moral improves

- b) The frustrated husband - sharp words, cutting words, foolish words - then surprise and shock when there is a negative reaction to those words

- c) The frustrated father - Father's your children listen to you, they hear you - the remember the things you say in anger and frustration "why do you have to be such an idiot", "you can be so stupid sometimes"

#### C. The Effects of words

##### 1. Unbridled words show an unbridled heart

- a) A mouth without restraint - There is something wrong with our hearts when our reaction to life is to say the first thing that pops into our head

*A sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use.*

##### 2. What an Unbridled heart releases

- a) The problem is not necessarily with our tongues rather what is behind our tongues and words we speak are from an incorrect heart

**Proverbs 4:23-24** *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. 24 Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.*

##### 3. The damage of the words we speak effect other areas of our lives

**James 3:6** *The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell*

## II. CHOOSING YOUR WORDS

#### A. God is able to change our nature

- 1. Man cannot change the nature of the tongue- God is able to change our hearts
  - a) Paul is very clear- the tongue is evil and full of poison- the capacity for destruction our words have will never change- the solution must come from God in changing our nature
- 2. We need to see the dangerous potential our words can have
  - a) The evil nature of our tongues comes from the reality of living in a sinful world

**Mark 7:15** *There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him."*

- 3. If by nature our words cannot be bridled then we must ask God to bridle our hearts
  - a) God wants our words to make positive impact on other people- Children react to the words of their parents- they listen to the words you speak

**Psalms 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

#### B. Using words wisely

- 1. Don't say everything you feel / everything that pops into your head

**Psalms 141:3** *Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!*

- a) Exercise restraint over your mouth - How will my words effect this situation
- 2. Choose words that build up rather than tear down

**Ephesians 4:15-16** *"But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

- a) In ministry - are you able to inspire others with your words?
- b) Ministry leaders/ future pastors - feel the frustration of getting people involved - do this by using words that inspire

#### C. The Blessing of wise words

- 1. You honor Christ with the words you speak
  - a) When our words reflect the nature of Christ - Jesus is pleased by that / we actually make Christ more clearly seen with our words
- 2. Other people are inspired and encouraged by your words
  - a) This is what is such a blessing in serving God - the words you speak have the ability encourage someone to keep serving God - altar calls you will give, sermons some of you will preach, words of encouragement to someone in church - can change lives.
- 3. The Gospel is advanced

**John 6:68**—*But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

- a) God's purposes on the earth are advanced through men who are willing to speak life