

The Heart and the Mouth (Part 2)

Proverbs 10:10-14

January 17, 2016

Introduction

Solomon identifies the mouth as the identity of the heart. What a person says comes from the heart. James agrees in **James 3**, saying that the tongue is tied to the heart. James even says that the heart is tied to hell (**3:6**). The reason is that the heart is desperately wicked and no one can control it or understand it (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Here in verse 10, we learn the effects of communication have on people and self.

Proverbs 10:10 *He who winks with the eye causes trouble, but a prating fool will fall.*

This verse is a janus which looks forward and backwards. **Verse 10a** looks forward to **11-14** in which communication hurts others; whereas, **10b** looks backwards to **6-9** in which the mouth ruins the self. Winking of the eyes is subtle communication that conceals true intent. Because the message is hidden and deceitful, when the true message comes out, trouble happens to others. Furthermore, for a fool, if he keeps on talking and not listening, he will be ruined. He will only have himself to blame, since he will be ruined.

Last Sunday, we focused on **verses 6-9** and talked about how communication comes from the heart. For a person who is wicked, their communication will be destructive to themselves. They will be ruined by foolish talks because they refuse to listen.

Today, we will focus on how such communication destroys others, and again, the condition of their heart is the issue.

I. The Wicked (11b, 12a, 13b, 14b)

- For fools
 - Their mouth conceals violence (**11b**)
- but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*
- Their evil intent are not obvious
 - The ultimate end is harm (purposely or inadvertently)
 - Why?
 - Hatred (**12a**)

Hatred stirs up strife

- Hatred and pride go hand-in-hand
- Usually results in wounded pride and/or power
- Destroys relationships
- Hatred is seen from the speech and actions
- Many times from the winking of eyes
- Its fruit
 - Strife, angry conflicts
 - Will expand on this next Sunday

- Consequences
 - They will receive a rod (**13b**)

but a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

- This is the only way to change a fool
- Sheer force

Proverbs 26:3 *A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back.*

- The fool only responds to pain
- However, he seldom learns from it
- Therefore the lesson must be applied again and again

Proverbs 19:29 *Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.*

- Why?
 - Because he refuses to change or listen

Proverbs 10:17 *He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray.*

- Reaping destruction (**14b**)

but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

- Their mouth gets them into trouble

Proverbs 13:3 *He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*

- Their destruction is near
 - Could happen at any moment, anywhere
 - Could be death, family, financial, reputation, etc

- For believers

- Even though our inner man has been made new and delights in the law of God (**2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 7:22**)
- Our flesh gets in the way of our holiness and is the cause of our fights between brothers and sisters in Christ

James 4:1 *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?*

- We get involved in silly, unprofitable accusations and discussions

Titus 3:9-11 *But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. 11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.*

- We slander others without facts and witnesses

James 4:11 *Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.*

- We refuse to lay aside our own bitter feelings

1 Peter 2:1 *Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.*

II. The Righteous (11a, 12b, 13a, 14a)

- Fountain of life (11a)

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life

- Fountain = water from ground, shooting up
- In Middle East, this is considered a treasure
- Life-giving and nourishing
- How can the mouth be a fountain of life?
 - God is the true source and giver of life

Psalms 36:9 *For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.*

- Fear of God is the fountain of life

Proverbs 14:27 *The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.*

- The Law is the fountain of life

Proverbs 13:14 *The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.*

- Meaning
 - God is the source of life
 - We can only receive life by fearing God and obeying His words
 - This is faith, saving faith

John 6:68-69 *Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."*

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- Hearing the word of God and believing in Jesus = faith
- Only through faith in Jesus Christ, we can receive life
- Impact of righteousness

- The righteous' words, actions, attitude reveal life for those who will hear and receive
- The righteous person is showing Christ likeness
- How and why?
 - Love (**12b**)

But love covers all sins.

- Love of God Is in them
- Its fruit
 - Covers sin
 - Does not mean
 - Excuse or accept sin
 - Meaning
 - He hides other's sin from public view
 - He does not expose them to public shame
 - He does not get even

Proverbs 19:11 *The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.*

- He does not remind the other of past sin(s)

Proverbs 17:9 *He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.*

- Blessings (**13a, 14a**)
 - Wisdom (**13a**)

Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding

- This person can see what God sees
- Can distinguish wrong from right
- Applies God's words to his life
- This person has been teachable (and is still teachable)
 - He is worth listening to and learning from
- Its impact (**14a**)

Wise people store up knowledge

- Stores up knowledge
 - This person wants more of God—to know Him and His ways
 - They do not share their knowledge to prove their wisdom
 - They share when such wisdom is needed
 - He is careful in what he says