

nov 20, 53 A.M.

"THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER"

Prov. 18:21

A monthly magazine published for passengers of Airlines listed a unique advertisement.

It was a tongue cleaner!

All that the user had to do was hook some sort of band around his tongue and pull down.

Procedure was guaranteed to make one's mouth cleaner and fresher than it had ever been before. And for only \$3.98.

We smile, any device that could clean a persons mouth would be a bargain at any price.

By nature in our society --

All of us talk a great deal.

We identify people by their speech patterns.

They are strong talkers - silent type - one of few words - humorous.

Old adage - want to spread some news -- all you need is telephone, telegraph, or tell a woman.

Person talks (fast) - we say they have been vaccinated with a phonograph needle.

Because of verbal communication, our speech is a determining factor in our

interpersonal relationships.

Because we talk so much we should think about what we say - how we say it - to whom we are saying it.

Not one person alive who hasn't gotten into trouble because of what he or she does or has said.

Majority of problems stem from remarks, careless speech.

Negative speech.

Speech habits: Three E's.

1. Examine your present speech patterns.
2. Exchange bad speech habits for acceptable ones.
3. Eliminate unnecessary speech - practice talking less and listening more.

Book of Proverbs gives wise hints for all three of these categories.

Problems we have with speech - hasty speech, phony gossip.

I. HASTY SPEECH

Are you interested in what the other person has to say?

Do you speak out of turn?

Proverbs: Characteristic of hasty speaker - he is defensive, argumentative, he lacks creditability, he is rude, interruptive.

25:8 - Warns - "Not go out hastily to argue your case; otherwise, what

May act in uncontrolled manner to defend yourself. You lose credibility.

1 - First, may (make a fool out of yourself). When a parent hastily rushes in to settle arguments between children.

Ill: Two families were yelling and shaking their fists at each other because the son of family No. 1 had "socked" the daughter of family No. 2 for cheating in a broomstick baseball game.

As parents were raging at each other, making all kinds of threats and accusations.

"You borrowed my hammer and never returned it!"

Well they should pay for all the cans of charcoal lighter you've taken and never returned!"

The kids sneaked off and started playing again. The whole thing was useless.

Mating, A new program presented, one man ~~did~~ did not have a thimble large enough to take it in - was upset with the speaker - threatened calling him a liar! - Woe, I said, you didn't hear the message.

2 - Second, make (fools when interrupting another).

Listening defect, pride, not want to hear what is being said. We think we know more, and have more to contribute.

So we respond before the speaker has finished.

1 - A woman on a Quiz Show lost \$10,000 - she tried to out guess the question before the Master of Ceremonies had completed his sentence, costly error, heard only 1/2 - grabbed her head, "How could I have been so stupid?"

Interrupting is rude -- a put down.

29:20 - "Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."

When we listen to a person who is "hasty in his words" - we soon reject him - he loses creditability - they discount what he says.

18:13 - "He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him." There is very little good to say about one who is too hasty in speaking.

What is the solution to hasty words?

1 - First - watch what you say - the content.

21:3 - "He who guards his mouth and his tongue guards his soul from troubles."

A military term - stand watch. Alert watching for enemy forces - unexpectedly.

Guard - verbal patterns - choose words that will help not hurt.

Put your mind in gear before you put your mouth in motion.

2 Second - watch the way you speak.

15:25 - "The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things."

Meditate about what you are going to say.

Opposite of pondering is pouring.

Pepper shaker - few grains - top falls off. The entire shaker full of pepper tumbles out onto your food. Food ruined.

3 - Third - watch when you speak.

15:23 - "A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word."

Timing - as actor.

Talked about saying right thing at right time in right way. Hasty speech.

Take time to mention one more.

Hasty -

II. PHONY SPEECH

Two kinds - flattery and lying.

1. Flattery.

There was this woman, sweet woman but had the habit of calling everybody "darling".

Because of this many people thought she was a phony.

Others go around with flattery.

26:18, 19 - Dangers of insincere speech - "Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death - so is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "was I not joking?"

Picture madman wildly fires a gun, explosives.

Or, flattery in telling people what you think they want to hear.

29:5 - "A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet."

2 x kind - Sherry speech.

2. Lying

26:28 - "A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin."

*Preacher, Preaching Annias & Sapphira - Struck Dead - told lie to God!
said he - "God doesn't strike people dead for lying in these modern times, if he did where would we be?
A smile came over faces congregation But the preacher had not finished - all'll tell you where it would be!
I'd be right here preaching to an empty church"*

I heard a preacher of a First Baptist Church speak some time ago. He told a story. It was a story twice, because the story he told was a story.

It went something like this. Such and such a thing happened in his church. He related the events as personal.

The audience was cackeling like laying hens. He related the events.

But there was one problem with it! I had heard a friend of mine tell the same story 10 years before to illustrate.

Grady Nutt had used the same story on Hee Haw.

The difference was my friend and Grady Nutt did not tell the story as if

it had happened to them personally.

As I sat there, I remember thinking - "The speaker is lying. That did not happen to Him."

Why had he "stretched the truth".

Maybe he wanted to make the point more personal - maybe he didn't realize he was untruthful.

Try as I might - I heard little else the man had to say. As he talked about other fantastic things - he didn't have creditability.

I'm not sitting in judgment on him.

First, what is a lie?

If I asked you to write out your definition of a lie - what? Telling an untruth - or many types, any form of untruth - thought - word - or deed.

Not barefaced liars - it has been said all fishermen are liars? So are some coon and fox hunters!

Old man had coon dog - so good - Took him in woods - Taped up one side of his nose so he would not run 2 coons at the same time.

We hear stories repeated - won't verify the facts.

We excuse our fabrications by saying that lying is not always a sin. Like the preacher who had problems with the truth. Deacon said - "I'll help you. When it gets out of line. I'll clear my throat!" Speaking of length of foxes tails used by Samson in the grain fields. I bet their tails were 20 ft. long. Cleared

throat -- no, second thought 12 feet. Cleared throat - tried once more - 6 feet.
Cleared throat - now the tails were 3 feet long and Brother Deacon, you can clear
your throat until you get strept. I don't intend to cut one more inch off of the
tails of the foxes!

God said -

6:16, 17 - He hates a lying tongue and a false witness.

Our arrogance makes us lie. We devise - plant - plan - lies in our hearts.

False witness tells not the truth when it is in his power to do so.

8:7 - "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to
my lips."

Exactly what does abomination mean?

Sickening dislike for it - repulsive - that is God's response to falsehood.
They are always wrong.

Second, what is the source of lies?

1. Human heart.

"The heart is more deceitful than all else." Jer. 17:9. "I lied because --"

2. Satan

"For he is a liar, and the father of lies." John 8:44.

Third, what are some lies in our time.

1. The lie of Commission.

Telling something that is not true but implying, stating, inferring that it is.

MAN Working Pondexter St - lady, I had some juvenile boys, I think they stole some money from your house. Better go check & she led the thief & dear right to her "cookie jar" & he walked out with a thousand \$.

First lie of this kind - Gen. 3:4.

Satan told Eve that no harm would befall her if she disobeyed God. You surely shall not die.

Next chapter - Cain - Lord said "Where is Abel, your brother?" I do not know.
Gen. 4:9.

Gen. 18:13 - God told Abraham and Sarah a child was planned for their home.
Sarah laughed to herself - she denied it. V. 15.

Sin of Commission, afraid of being discovered.

2. Lie of Omission.

Not telling the truth when we should.

Telling only partial instead of complete truth. Abraham was rebuked
- Gen. 20:12. Passed Sarah off to King Abimelech as his sister.

Gen. 20:9. He deceived.

3. Perjury.

Being a false witness.

Matt. 26:59, 60 - Crime of priests and council trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus.

Lying on the witness stand is morally wrong, it is a crime, it thwarts the entire justice system.

19:1 - "Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool."

4. Gossip and Slander

Old parlor game - several people in circle. Whoever is "it". Whispers a sentence to the person next to him. He can only say it once. That person whispers it on to the next. Until it reaches the last one in the circle. Last person repeats aloud the message as he received it.

Comical - distorted with the telling.

Put ~~John's~~ wife - seduce Joseph - tearing clothes off his back. He is accused - into prison. Gen. 39:19-20.

5. Exaggeration

Bragging - boasting - Eve fell for this talking to the serpent. Adam did eat.

We say have terrible (headache) - only slight throb.

Butter people up to get things - slant our story.

Woman said, my dog dug holes - 10 feet deep in our back yard! Out of habit she tells such things.

6. Manipulation

Using people for personal advantage.

Form of deceit - Gen. 27. Rebekkah and Jacob take advantage of Isaac.

Blind, feeble - tricked.

Disgussing Jacob - goat skin covering. Steal Esau's birth right. Betrayed his trust. 27:11-12. 22 - Voice is voice of Jacob but the hands are hands of Esau. 24 - I am Esau. He embraced and kissed his son.

How must Jacob feel? V. 33, 34.

Kiss of Judas = signal. Matt. 26:48.

6:12-14 - "A worthless person, a wicked man, is the one who walks with a false mouth, who winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his fingers, spreads strife."

7. Hypocrisy

Says one thing - words and actions do not match.

He pretends to be something he is not, even by faking emotions.

Christ: "Honor me with their lips, but their heart is far away."

Solomon betrayed his position. He was disgusted with what he had become.

Ecc. 12:9-14.

8. Faithlessness.

Breaking promises.

Unfaithful to a commitment.

To my Lord and His church.

Peter - I'll never fall away - not deny you. Matt. 33-35. Cock crows - 3 times.

III. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF LYING?

1- 1. Eventually be uncovered.

12:19 - "Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment."

Truth enters - lies exposed, uncovered.

2. Lying is punished.

19:5 - "A false witness will not go unpunished and he who tells lies will not escape."

Divine punishment - discipline untruthful.

Self-recrimination - guilt that results from our sinning.

Fear of losing face - friends - loved ones.

20:17 - "Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel."

Have you ever eaten gravel?

Does it appeal to your appetite?

Actually chew pebbles, break your teeth, cut your mouth.

Lying never works.

Acts 5:1-9 - Annias, Sapphira - Peter said. "How is it you have agreed together to lie to the Spirit of the Lord?"

How can I deal with this sin today?

1 First admit that each lie is a sin - fib.

2 Second, weigh the consequences. It will ultimately hurt you if you lie.

Lying is self-destructive.

Brings no satisfaction - kills your joy - destroys your trust in relationships.

3 19:9 - "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will perish."

28:13 - "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."

A lie is hated by God - regardless of its size.

Become a truth teller.

Jesus - Way - Truth