

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
**Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Words**  
**Pastor Marcus**  
**July 19, 2020**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker: Think of when someone spoke kind words to you that stuck with you, and share!**

**Reading: Proverbs 11:3; 12:14,18,23,25; 13:3; 15:1,4,23; 16:28; 18:8,21; 20:25**

**Outline:**

- I. When we speak (Prov. 12:18, 13:3, 20:25)
  - a. Recognize the power of words. Things spoken in haste can't be taken back.
  - b. Proverbs condemns foolish words; think before speaking, in person and online.  
**Q: Is it okay to be a talkative person? How can we discern where to draw the line?**
- II. How we speak (Prov. 15:1,4)
  - a. How we say words affects how they are received. The implications of our manner of speech are often just as important as what we say.
  - b. How we speak reflects how we believe. Our speech is about more than just effectiveness or saying the right things. In it, we reflect who we are and what our God is like.  
**Q: When should we speak gently and when should we speak more strongly?**
- III. What we speak (Prov. 16:28, 18:8, 12:23, 18:21)
  - a. Resist the temptation to spread rumors, even if it feels good; what we speak reflects who we are. Recognize what your speech does; speak what builds up, not what tears down.
  - b. Look to Jesus; his entire life was marked by life-giving words. Mark your words not by carelessness and hatred, but mark them by the kindness, love, and forgiveness of Christ.  
**Q: How can we know if we are ones who "love" the tongue?**

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) Do you tend to speak hastily to others?
- 2) What is your tone when you speak? What would you like it to be?
- 3) Do you often gossip? How can you better reflect Christ when you encounter gossip/rumors?
- 4) Think about your daily speech. What does it say about who you are and what you believe?
- 5) Who is God calling you to speak kindness/encouragement to this week?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Matthew 15:10-20 **Q: Are our hearts completely evil? How do we learn to watch our tongue?**
- Ephesians 4:25-32 **Q: How do we practice "good anger" in regards to our words?**
- James 3 **Q: How can we sow (and reap) a "harvest of righteousness" with our tongues?**

**Closing Prayer:** *Gracious God, we see just how powerful words are. Our words hold life and death. Cause us to see the power and implications of our words. Lord, help us to speak Your truth in love, patience, and kindness. As we turn from the wicked and careless speech, turn us back to You that we might be made free and holy. Send us to speak Your life-giving words to those around us. We pray this in Jesus' holy name, Amen.*

