

Be Not Rash With Thy Mouth

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Ecc 5:2-7 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

- I. Be careful little lips what you say.
 - A. Our mouth gets us into more trouble than anything else about us.
 - B. As soon as a child learns to talk he has to be disciplined more for his words than for anything else.
 - C. We transgress with our lips more than we do with any other part of our body or soul.

James 3:2-8 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

- D. We transgress with our lips in many ways.
 - 1. We use it as a weapon to hurt others.
 - 2. We use it to curse others.
 - 3. We simply use it too much and say more than we ought to.
 - 4. We say things that should not be said.
 - 5. We speak too quickly in commitment, in condemnation, and in blessing sometimes.
- E. It seems as though our mouth just has a mind and a will of its own sometimes – but it doesn't.
 - 1. It is simply a member of our body that is under our control.
 - 2. If it is out of control it is because our religion is in vain.

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

- II. The main instruction of these verses in Ecclesiastes is that God expects us to keep our word.

Num 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

Ecclesiastes 5:5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

- A. A man's word should be his bond – in all dealings with God and others.
- B. When you let words of commitment come out of your mouth – you are committed in God's sight.
 - 1. God doesn't dismiss our promises as lightly as we do – He doesn't dismiss them at all.
- C. God does not recognize degrees of commitment – like we do.
 - 1. "Well, I didn't promise."
 - 2. We think that we must say, "I swear, " or "I promise" before it is binding.
- D. God does not recognize "I forgot!" as an excuse for not keeping your word.
- E. Just as hurtful words once spoken are not retrievable, neither are words of promise.
 - 1. Once words are out of your mouth there is no taking them back, whether a promise, a curse, or a blessing.
 - 2. This is something that has always been clearly understood, but has now become very obscured in our day.

III. Since what we say is permanent and binding we should be very careful with our words.

James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.

Prov 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Prov 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Ecc 5:3 ...and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

- A. Words are easy to spit out, but sometimes hard to keep.
- B. You can promise something rashly and find yourself unable to perform that which you have promised.
 - 1. You may excuse yourself because of your inability, but you need to understand that God doesn't accept your excuse – you promised!
 - 2. God's instruction is that we not promise what we cannot perform.
- C. You can promise something rashly and find that keeping your promise to some other person will put you at odds with God.
 - 1. Now you are in an impossible situation where you cannot do right either way.

Judg 11:30-31 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.

Mark 6:23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give *it* thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

1 Sam 14:24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted *any* food.

Judg 21:1 Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.

- D. The summation of all this is that we should fear God.
 - 1. We should be aware that God is listening and will hold us to account for what we say and what we promise.
 - 2. This is true whether men do or not – God is heaven and we are upon the earth.
 - 3. This is true for even the little things – there are no little things when it comes to our word, as far as God is concerned.

Mat 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.