

# Devotionals: DailyWalk

**Date: July 4-5, 2009**

**Text: Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 4:25-32**

**Theme: Taking Root: The Gospel Rules  
...Speaking Truth**

## **Day 1: Monday, July 6, 2009—The Power of Our Words**

Have you spoken words you wish had not left your lips or been devastated by another's words? Have you been blessed and encouraged by affirming, edifying words or heartened to see your words bring a smile to someone's face? Words have power, power to abase and harm or build up and heal. How do you use words? Read Exodus 20:16; Psalm 15:1-3; Proverbs 12:18; and Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Meditate on Proverbs 25:11(NIV): "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Spend time talking to the Lord about how you use words.

## **Day 2: Tuesday, July 7, 2009—The Commandment**

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (*Exodus 20:16*). In ancient Israel, court proceedings took place at the city gate. Study carefully Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6-13; 19:15-19; and Zechariah 8:16-17; how might these words have helped insure truth telling? In Leviticus 19:11-18, we see dimensions beyond the judicial that help us understand the commandment. At first glance, we see only admonitions of what not to do. Leviticus 19:18 points us to the underlying command: love others. Ponder and pray about all of this in light of Deuteronomy 10:20-21. Write out these two verses, and pray this week about how they will guide your life.

## **Day 3: Wednesday, July 8, 2009—The Greatest Commandment**

Read Mark 12:29-31. Each week, we have spoken about how our response to the commandments begins with our relationship with the Lord. Is God enthroned on our hearts and in our lives? Is God Lord of our lips too? Read Deuteronomy 10:20-21 again; then read 1 John 4:7-11. Notice that "God is love" (4:8). Hold this thought as you read John 1:14 and 14:6. Our eternal God is love and is truth; these are aspects of God's eternal nature. How our hurtful and/or dishonest words must grieve the Lord! We, who are created in God's image and are to reflect God's glory (*Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 43:7*), must take seriously how we speak to and about others. Pray!

## **Day 4: Thursday, July 9, 2009—Truth, Lies, and the Word**

On Day 1, we spoke about the power of our words to harm or heal, bless or curse, tear down or build up. Let's look for a moment at the power of God's words: read Genesis 1:3; Isaiah 40:8; 55:10-11; John 1:1-5; Hebrews 4:12-13; and Revelation 19:11-13. Though our words do not carry the authority, purpose, and

power of God's word, they do affect others, often in great measure. Ponder this as you consider Jesus' words about truth and lies in John 8:12-19,31-47. With whom is truth associated; how about lies? If we are to honor God, we must speak truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*). Begin memorizing Psalm 19:14; make the psalmist's words your daily prayer.

## **Day 5: Friday, July 10, 2009—The Tongue**

The books of Proverbs and James speak much about our tongues and how we use them. As you read the listed verses, ponder the commandment about bearing false witness and recall the truths to which the commandment points: we are to use our words to bless and edify others, speak truth in love, and glorify the One in whose image we are created. Read Proverbs 11:12-13; 12:17-19,22; 15:1-2,4,23,28; 18:4-8; 30:5,7-8a; and James 3:3-13,17-18. All of us fall short (*Romans 3:23*); we speak words we wish we could retract, but spoken words are like toothpaste: once squeezed from the tube; we cannot put it back in. Yet God is merciful. Read 1 John 1:9; pray.

## **Day 6: Saturday, July 11, 2009—"The Mouth of the Righteous"**

The writer of Proverbs says, "The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life" (*Proverbs 10:11*). Ponder this as you meditate on Ephesians 4:25-5:2 and Colossians 3:12-17. If our mouths are "fountains of life," what else will be evident in our lives? What we think, say, and do are all reflections of the condition of our hearts. Read Psalm 19:14 and Proverbs 4:23. Jesus says, "*Out of the abundance (or overflow) of the heart, the mouth speaks*" (*Luke 6:45*). Recall the quote: "The heart of the matter is the heart" (*Wengert*). Offer your heart to the Lord in prayer.

## **Day 7: Sunday, July 12, 2009—Our Words Can Honor the Lord and Build Community**

In our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities, how we act and what we say either honors or dishonors the One whose name we bear. As children of God, as Christians, we are to reflect the love and grace of Jesus; we are to use our words to point others to him. If we do not do so, we dishonor his precious, glorious name, and our witness might well be an ash heap. Read Psalm 19:14; Luke 6:45; John 13:34-35; 17:20-26; and Ephesians 4:25-5:2. This week, how can you use your words to be intentional in protecting and building community in your home, church...? Begin now, this moment, by first committing your heart and your lips and your life to Jesus.