

“Wisdom with Words”

- I. Words for Good or Evil (Prov. 18:21; 10:11; 11:9, 11; 12:18, 25; 13:14; 14:25; 15:4, 23; 16:24, 27-28; 12:13-14, 19; 13:2-3; 14:3; 17:20; 18:7, 20)
- II. Words as Investments
- A. Foolishly Invested: No Return On Investment (R.O.I.)
1. No R.O.I. when they are spoken by a \_\_\_\_\_ (26:7, 9).
  2. No R.O.I. when they are spoken to a \_\_\_\_\_ (15:14; 17:4, 10; 23:9).
  3. No R.O.I. when they aren't accompanied by appropriate \_\_\_\_\_ (14:23; 29:19).
  4. No R.O.I. when they aren't \_\_\_\_\_ (26:2; 24:12; 26:25-26).
  5. No R.O.I. unless spoken at the proper \_\_\_\_\_ in the proper \_\_\_\_\_ (27:14).
- B. Better Saved than Spoken (10:19; 12:23; 15:28; 17:27; 18:2; 21:23; 29:20)
1. Save your words until you have truly and completely \_\_\_\_\_ (18:13, 15, 17).
  2. Save your words until \_\_\_\_\_ pass (12:16; 15:1-2; 17:27; 29:11).
  3. Save your words until you carefully consider \_\_\_\_\_ to say and \_\_\_\_\_ to say it (15:28).
- C. Forbidden (Illegal) Investments
1. Revealing \_\_\_\_\_ (11:13; 25:9-10).
  2. Hasty \_\_\_\_\_ (6:1-5; 20:25).
  3. Words that start \_\_\_\_\_ (20:3).
  4. Correcting a \_\_\_\_\_ (23:9; 29:9).
  5. Cursing \_\_\_\_\_ (20:20 cf. 30:11).
  6. False \_\_\_\_\_ (19:5, 28).
  7. \_\_\_\_\_ (26:28; 28:23; 29:5).
  8. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (18:8; 20:19; 25:23).
  9. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (4:24; 6:12-13).
  10. \_\_\_\_\_ in self (25:14; 27:2)
- D. Invest with Gold
1. Words are golden when \_\_\_\_\_ directed by God (16:1).
  2. Words are golden when they provide \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (15:7; 31:26).
  3. Words are golden when we proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ (13:14; 24:11).
  4. Words are golden when we correct the \_\_\_\_\_ (25:12; 27:5-6; 28:23).
  5. Words are golden when we defend the \_\_\_\_\_ of the afflicted (31:8-9).
  6. Words are golden when they meet \_\_\_\_\_ (12:18, 25; 15:4; 16:24).
- III. Words Spoken Wisely
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ is everything! (15:23; 25:11)
- B. It's \_\_\_\_\_ you say it! (15:1-2; 16:21, 23; 22:11; 25:15)

## Discussion Questions:

1. Read James 3:1-12. How difficult is it to control the tongue? Why is it so difficult?
2. Read Eph. 4:29-30; 5:3-4. What kinds of things should and should not come out of our mouths?
3. Look up the verses in Section I. Words for Good or Evil. What wisdom do you get from those verses? What positive uses of words will you implement? What negative uses of words will you avoid?
4. What would the impact be on your speech if you saw every one of your words as an investment? What would you do differently?
5. One person commented, "I've rarely been sorry for words I did not speak." What are the practical implications of that statement?
6. Read Prov. 18:13, 15, 17. Why is it important to thoroughly listen before you begin speaking? What does it mean to thoroughly listen when it comes to counseling someone? Why is it important to get all sides to a story? What is the best way to accomplish that?
7. What is the best thing to do when you feel strong emotions coming on while in a discussion with someone? Give an example of when you did that and the impact it had on you and on the situation. Give an example of when you didn't do that and the impact it had.
8. What does it mean to "honor" your parents? At what age do we no longer have to honor our parents? (Yes that is a trick question) How do we honor our parents with our words? Does that only apply when they can hear us? What are some specific ways you can honor your parents with your words?
9. Read Prov. 16:1. What in the world does that mean?
10. Read Prov. 31:8-9. What are some examples of some unfortunate / afflicted / needy people in our culture that need us to speak for them? What are you currently doing about that? What actions should accompany those words?
11. What does the word "tact" mean? Go ahead and Google it! Now share some examples when you were less than tactful as well as some examples when you were tactful. How can a person develop tact in their communications? How does this apply to email, text messages, twitter...?
12. How important is tone, facial expression, and body language in communication? Read Prov. 15:1-2. How are you doing with "gentle" responses to angry people?
13. What one main thing do you need to work on to be more WISE with your WORDS?

[Answers to blanks: Fool; Fool; Actions; True; Time; Way; Listened; Strong Emotions; What; How; Secrets (Confidences); Commitments; Fights; Fool; Parents; Witness; Flattery; Gossip; Slander; Lies; Deception; Boasting; Sovereignly; Wisdom; Knowledge; Gospel; Wise; Rights; Needs; Timing; How]