

Malachi Men Proverbs Lesson 3 Speech

ONE GROUP: (importance of speech)

Q – How did God create the universe?

Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26 (1) Then God said: let there be light, ...let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, ...let the waters under the heavens be gathered together, ...let the earth bring forth grass, ...let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens, ...let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, ...let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind, ...let Us make man in Our image...

Answer: God spoke everything into existence (God's Word is all powerful)

Q – How did Christ still storms, remove demons, restore life?

Lk 8:24 (1004) And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.

Lk 8:29 (1005) For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

Lk 8:54-55 (1006) But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat.

Answer: Christ spoke and it was done (God's Word is powerful)

Q – How are followers of Christ saved and forgiven?

Ro 10:9-10 (1108) That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 Jn 1:9 (1193) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Answer: Through confession (spoken word)

Q – How are men judged by God?

Mt 12:35-37 (944) A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

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Answer: Men are judged according to their words (man's word is important)

Q – What was the problem in Eden?

Gen 2:16-17 (2) And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Gen 3:1 (3) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden"?"

Gen 3:4-5 (3) Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Answers:

- Adam & Eve had to decide between two truth claims
- Their choice impacted all their ancestors
- What we believe has consequences (we have more choices than A&E)
- What we say has consequences (A&E shifted blame rather than confess)
- Words are important (you and your family are impacted by your speech)

Q – How important is the truth to God?

Jn 8:32 (1043) And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Jn 8:44 (1043) You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Jn 14:6 (1052) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jn 17:17 (1055) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Jn 18:37 (1057) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

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Titus 1:1-2 (1169) Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgement of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

Answers:

- God is truth – Jesus came to bear witness to the truth
- Believers are saved and sanctified by the truth
- God expects His followers to know and obey the truth
- God expects His followers to speak the truth
- Truth is stronger than a lie – Satan is behind all lies
- Believers are people of truth and should speak the truth

Summary:

- God's Word is important
 - God created through words
 - God controls the universe through words
 - God communicates to man through words
- Man's word is important
 - Man responds to God through words
 - Man is saved and sanctified through words
 - Man is judged according to his words
 - What we say is critical and has power (for good or evil)

SMALL GROUPS: (compare & contrast godly & evil speech)

Q – What are some impacts of man's speech?

Prov 11:11 (652) By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

Prov 12:18 (653) There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.

Prov 12:25 (653) Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.

Prov 15:1 (655) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prov 15:18 (655) A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.

Prov 18:21 (658) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Prov 25:18 (664) A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

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Prov 25:25 (664) As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.

Prov 26:28 (665) A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Answers: (contrast wise words & foolish words)

Wise Word

Builds up a city

Heals

Cheers up

Brings calm

Ruins a reputation

Leads to life

Foolish Word

Ruins a city

Harms

Depresses

Stirs up anger

Encourages

Leads to death

Q – What are the consequences of scoffing? (mocking, belittling)

Prov 3:34 (646) Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.

Prov 14:6 (654) A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands.

Prov 21:11 (660) When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

Prov 29:8 (666) Scoffers set a city aflame, but wise men turn away wrath.

Answers: (consequences for the scoffer)

- Scorned by God
- Can't find wisdom
- Punished for scorning
- Starts large-scale contention

Q – What are the consequences of lying? (intentional deceit)

Prov 19:5 (658) A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.

Prov 19:9 (658) A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.

Prov 20:17 (659) Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

Prov 21:6 (660) Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.

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Answers: (consequences for the liar)

- Punishment
- Perishing
- Death

Q – What are the consequences of slander? (talking about others)

Prov 10:18 (651) Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.

Prov 11:13 (652) A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Prov 16:28 (656) A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.

Prov 18:8 (657) The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.

Answers: (Note: gossip is tempting and addictive)

- Become a fool
- Unfaithful
- Separate friends
- Pollute the heart

Q – What are the characteristics of persuasive speech?

Prov 15:1 (655) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Prov 25:15 (663) By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

Answer: Gentleness, patience & truthfulness increase persuasiveness

Q – How can you develop the speech that God desires?

Prov 28:13 (666) He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Answer: Confess your sins

Prov 2:6 (645) For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

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Prov 8:6-9 (649) Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; for my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.

Answer: Listen to and learn from God (study & obey God's Word)

Prov 8:13 (649) The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.

Answers:

- Hate evil speech
- Develop a healthy "fear of the Lord" (awe, respect, reverence)

Eph 4:29 (1148) Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Answers:

- Stop speaking foolishly (put-off this evil habit)
- Speak only what is needed, helpful, and gracious (put-on this godly habit)

Prov 20:19 (659) He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

Prov 25:9-10 (663) Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; lest he who hears it expose your shame, and your reputation be ruined.

Prov 26:20 (664) Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

Answer: Don't gossip & don't associate with gossips

Prov 14:7 (654) Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

Prov 22:24-25 (661) Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

Answer: Avoid evil associations

Prov 10:19 (651) In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

Prov 17:27 (657) He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

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Prov 17:28 (657) Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

Prov 21:23 (660) Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

Answer: Restrain your speech (be a man of few, but wise, words)

Prov 14:29 (655) He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.

Prov 17:14 (657) The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

Prov 19:11 (658) The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger; and his glory is to overlook a transgression.

Prov 20:3 (659) It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.

Prov 29:11 (666) A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back.

Answer: Be slow to anger & defuse other's anger (it is the honorable thing to do)

Prov 25:11 (663) A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in setting of silver.

Prov 25:12 (663) Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuke to an obedient ear.

Answer: Choose words wisely (wise words are precious)

Summary:

Godly Speech

Truthful
Helpful
Gracious
Builds up
Thoughtful
Needed
Enhances life
Valuable
Few words
Unifies

Evil Speech

Deceitful
Harmful
Offensive
Tears down
Impulsive
Unnecessary
Ruins life
Worthless
Many words
Divides

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- Words are powerful
- You are known by your speech (either wise or foolish)
- Speech has consequences: For others & for yourself
- Truth reflects God's character
- Lying, scoffing, and slander reflect Satan's character

Homework:

Memorize Proverbs 18:21 (658) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Remember that:
 - Your words reflect your heart
 - Your words affect others for good or for evil
 - Your words bring personal consequences

Read Ephesians 4:29 (1148) and answer the following questions:

- Is your speech usually necessary, helpful, and graceful?
- What are the consequences of your speech?
- What is your motivation when speaking? (To honor God or honor self?)
- Do you wish to allow God to change your speech?

Practice the following:

- Pause before speaking
- If you are tempted to become angry then pray silently for the proper words and to be guided by the Holy Spirit
- Consider what your heart motive is before speaking
- Speak only what is necessary, helpful, and graceful
- Be a model of godly speech to those around you
- Determine to only speak the truth (become known as a truthful person)

Consider the most important people in your life and make a list of the following:

- How can you encourage them to do right?
- What are their strengths? (How can you compliment them?)
- Is there anything you would like to thank them for?
- Is there anything you need to ask their forgiveness for?
- What are their weaknesses? (How can you help them?)

Read James 3:5-18 (1184) and consider the following:

- What is the source of the evil spoken by the tongue?
- If man cannot tame his tongue (vs. 8), then who can?
- What is the source of a righteous tongue?
- People are known by their speech. How do you want to be known?

Read one chapter of Proverbs each day (i.e. chapter 5 on the 5th of the month)