



General Welcome and Dismissal of Children to Bible Zone – hand out candy

Over the past several weeks we have been looking into the Word of God to see what it has say about life and to counter the lies that are being spoken to us in relation to many different areas of life and living. Today, we will be looking at the lie that – Words aren't that important, the things I say do not really have an effect on others.

However, as we shall see today – there is tremendous power in the words we say and the effect they have upon other people. As we begin, let's watch this short video clip of a song entitled WORDS.

SHOW VIDEO –WORDS

Words are powerful! The Bible says that – **Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Proverbs 18:21**

If words are so powerful and impactful, it is important for us to understand the influence of words and to learn to skillfully use the words we speak so that in the words of the song – “I don't want to say a word, unless it points the world back to You!”

Our story this week is from Genesis 3. Even before Genesis 3 we can see the awesome power of words for the scripture tells us that:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

And God said – Let there be light and there was light.

God called the light Day and the darkness He called night.

And God said ... And God a said ... And God said ...

God spoke and by His Word the heavens and the earth was formed – He spoke everything into existence and it was filled with His majesty and His glory and was an evidence of His creative power – and finally God said –

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. Genesis 1:26

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God spoke – and it was so. The creator of the universe created all things by the Word of His power including man and he puts man in charge of His creation. Then, God speaks to Adam in the Garden of Eden and instructs Him not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden, for in the day he would eat of the tree, he would surely die.

Can you imagine what it must have been like to live in the world at that time? Every word was perfect. God fellowshiped with Adam and Eve in unbroken fellowship and Adam and Eve enjoyed perfect communication with one another. No complaining, no arguing, no sadness or sorrow expressed, no disagreement – just pure unbroken and unbridled fellowship between them and the Lord and also between each other. But things change very quickly.

Enter in Genesis 3 the serpent (Satan). The Bible says that he was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He appears to Eve and asks the question – did God actually say that you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?

Eve explains that they can eat of any tree in the garden except the one in the middle of the garden, for even if they touch it, they will die

Satan responds by saying – You're not going to die. God knows that if you eat from that tree your eyes will be opened and you will be like him, knowing good and evil

So Eve looked at the tree and saw that it was good for food, and pleasant to the eyes and desired to make a person wise – So she took of the fruit and ate it and gave to Adam and he ate it.

Immediately, they saw they were naked – they were gripped by fear and guilt and tried to cover themselves by making fig leaves to cover them. They heard the Lord coming and hid from him in their shame.

God called out to them – where are you?

They responded by saying that they had hid themselves because they were naked and afraid

God confronted them by asking who told them they were naked – had they eaten of the tree He had commanded them not to eat?

Adam sought to blame the Lord and his wife by saying - the woman you gave me, gave me the fruit and I ate it

Eve said – The serpent tricked me and I ate

WORDS – Death and life are in the power of the tongue and here we see for the first time the negative impact words had upon mankind.

WORDS spoken by Satan to deceive and demoralize Adam and Eve by getting them to doubt God's Word

WORDS spoken by Adam and Eve revealing shame, fear, guilt and blame because they had fallen for the deception of Satan into thinking that God's Word really was not true, that God was holding something back from them, that if they would just do what they thought best - they would be just like God, knowing good and evil. Sin had entered their heart and now their words reflected their broken relationship with God. Jesus would later teach us in Luke 6:45 that it would be out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth would speak.

Our WORDS are a reflection of what is in our hearts.

Adam and Eve fell for the deceptive lies of Satan and as a result "sin entered into the world and death by sin." The words of Satan had a profound effect on all men.

Satan is a liar – Jesus called him a liar and the father of all lies. Satan seeks to fill our hearts and minds with doubts and lies because he is the one who wants to be like God and be worshipped as God. His master plan is deception and he will tell us anything to get us to turn from the Lord and to follow him.

Remember the story of Absalom and King David his father. II Samuel 15-18

Absalom was the rebellious son of David who wanted to be king instead of his father. But he was very deceptive and went about to gain the throne not by overthrowing his father but by taking the hearts of the people away from David. How did he do it? Each day he would go out to the gates of the city of Jerusalem. As people would come to the city to do business, he would ask them why they came. If they had a problem, Absalom would point out that if were king the problem would be handled in a certain way. He promised them many things and over the course of time won the hearts of the people away from David. When the time was right, and Absalom had more followers than David, he took over the city of Jerusalem and ran his father out of town. God would later restore the kingdom to David but not without much bloodshed and sorrow.

A liar will tell you anything to get you to believe him.

Here are some of Satan's lies tries to tell us about God:

There is no God

God is a figment of the imagination of the weak

There is not an all-powerful God who created everything. The world was created by a big bang, an evolutionary process over billions of years

God is a cosmic killjoy – He does not love you, if he loved you why would you be going through all the things you go through

If there is a God, why does he allow pain and suffering on the earth

A God of love would never send someone to hell – if there is a hell

Jesus is not God come to earth in human flesh

Jesus did not even exist

Jesus did not die for your sins – what sins? – He did not rise from the dead – why his followers stole him from the tomb and then made up all kinds of lies about his resurrection

Jesus is not coming again – where is the promise of his coming?

There's not just one God – there are many gods and many ways to go to heaven

The scripture says that Satan appears as an angel of light to blind the minds of the unbelieving, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. He does not want people to see or believe who Jesus is so they will not come to him.

Here are some of the lies that Satan tells those who do not know the Lord:

You're not a sinner – that is a concept someone thought up just to make you feel guilty

You're a good person – good enough to get to heaven

You're not near as bad as so and so. If they are going to heaven, you must be too!

There are many ways to heaven

Just live a good life and be kind to people and surely God will take you to heaven

Just go to church, give, do all the church things and you can make yourself acceptable to God

If you're good enough, you will gain God's favor and he will take you to heaven when you die

Only the weak need a god – you're the master of your fate, the captain of your soul

Why don't you wait until later in life to give your life to Christ? You want to enjoy your life now, don't you?

Just have a good time, don't worry about tomorrow – there's nothing to life besides the here and now

The most important thing in life is being happy – so do whatever makes you happy – regardless!

Who said sex before or outside of marriage is wrong?

Who said being a gay or lesbian or transgender is wrong – just a bunch of holier than thou bigots!

God is too loving for anyone to go to hell!

There's no such thing as a heaven or a hell

The Bible is full of contradictions and is not the only truth – How narrow-minded some are to say that there is only one way to God

The Bible is just a bunch of stories that men made up over the years – it's not really the Word of God

The church is full of hypocrites – you don't want to have anything to do with people like that

Christianity is a list of do's and don't's – you should be able to live life like you want to

Satan is also referred to in Revelation as the accuser of the brethren – constantly accusing us, seeking to take away our joy and thereby rendering us ineffective for the cause of Christ. He will do everything he can to discourage and dishearten us, to make us forget what the Lord has done for us and to keep us from understanding our identity in Christ. He will seek to divide God's people through gossip, complaining, backbiting and slander to seek to destroy the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, to make us believe that we really don't need each other.

Satan's lies come in a variety of ways, through what we see, through what we hear, many times through harsh, unkind words of those who are close to us, or, through condemning words from our society, or through words whispered to us by evil thoughts he tries to put into our minds to see if and how we will respond.

Listen to some of the lies of Satan to believers:

You are not worth anything

If you really knew the Lord you would never do _____

God has forgotten you

Why doesn't anyone notice you and your needs

God can't forgive you of that sin

You can lose your salvation you know

How can you really know there is a God?

You don't have to read your Bible or pray – Just go by what you feel is God's will for you

It won't hurt you to do that or look at that just once – after all, no one will ever find out

You need that item more than your boss – after all, they make so much money and this would really help you – they will never miss it

Go ahead and look – after all, looking never hurt anyone did it?

What's so wrong with _____? God is just trying to keep you from having fun.

Have you ever noticed how so and so gets all the attention and recognition – why you're just as important as they are.

You're not getting your needs met here – you should leave the church.

People don't appreciate you and all you've done here. Why, there just using you. After all you've done and you get treated like that?

Did you hear about so and so – what they did? Why I bet if others knew what you know they wouldn't think that they were so great a Christian – why don't you say something to someone

Your stuff is your stuff – you don't have to give to the church – they just want your money

You don't have the money to give to the Lord, why doesn't He own the cattle on a thousand hills anyway? If you tithe, you won't be able to provide for your family, pay your bills or do what you want to do.

AND THE LIES KEEP COMING – CAUSING DOUBT, DIVISION, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION
BUT WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

There is only one God who has manifested Himself in 3 persons – Father, Son & Holy Spirit

He is the Creator of the Universe

He is Holy, Loving and Compassionate, Full of Mercy

He is Just and the Judge of those who reject Him

Because of His great love for us, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for our sin

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

He was created in the image of God to have fellowship with God

Adam's sin broke man's fellowship with God – all have sinned

All men face the eternal judgement of God upon their lives because of their sin

Man is not capable of making himself acceptable to God

We need to repent and trust in Christ

THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

He is God's gift of love sent to die for the sin of man

He is God come in human flesh

He was born of a virgin

He lived a perfect life

He died a substitutionary death paying the penalty for our sin

He rose from the dead after three days

He was seen by over 500 people after His resurrection

He ascended into heaven

He is interceding for his redeemed ones before the throne of the Father

He is coming again to judge those who rejected Him and establish a new heaven and new earth

THE TRUTH ABOUT THOSE IN CHRIST

I am chosen and adopted by God

I am a child of God

I am forgiven – my sins are washed in the blood of the Lamb

I am accepted in the Beloved – Jesus Christ

I am a new creation in Christ – old things are passed away, all things have become new

I am free from the bondage of sin that once enslaved me

I can do all things through Christ who is my strength

I am a citizen of God's holy nation

I am an heir to God through Jesus Christ

I am seated with Christ by His throne in the heavenly places

I am a royal priest in God's household

I am the dwelling of the Holy Spirit

His righteousness in my nature

His mind is my mind

His purpose is my purpose

His fruit is my fruit

I am a saint, a holy one of God

I am gifted by the Holy Spirit

I am a significant member of the church

I am called by God to make disciples for Jesus Christ

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ

Ancient words – ever true – changing me and changing you! Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Will you be an agent of God to speak the truth of God and impart life to others or will you believe the lies of Satan and suffer the pain and death of believing his lies?

Invitation

