



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. (Luke 16:10)

When it was said, "*faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much*," Jesus was saying that it does not matter the quantity of what you have or what you do, but the quality does matter. We spend so much time thinking about things that we want or things that we have that we lose sight of the crucial part. Do we want or have things that are pleasing to God? For instance, how many Bibles do you have? How does that com-

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pare with other types of books? The significant part is not that you only have one Bible; it is if you never use it. If we do not use it, we risk forgetting what is important.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (Jas. 1:22-25)

The quality of what you do matters. God wants us to live in a certain way.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Mic. 6:8)

Jesus gave us another example of how we should live, showing us again that the quality of how we act and treat people is important.

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. (Luke 6:43-45)

Where your heart is determines what kind of person you are. If your heart is thinking of God and of good things that is one thing, but if your heart is evil and you only think of evil things, that will corrupt you and everything around you. It is also important to remember that what you say can affect so many different things.

He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction. (Pro. 13:3)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. (Pro. 18:21)

These are very wise words that remind us that what you say and how you say it matters. The quality of your speech and what you say could make a big difference to you and those who you influence. We all have a circle of influence — those who look to us to see how they should act and what they should think. Because of that, we have to show the quality of what God expects and that our wisdom comes from Him.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (Jas. 3:13-18)

We need to pay attention to the type of person that God wants us to be to make sure that we are living in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand. (Pro. 19:20-21)

We also need to pay attention to the type of person that we are hanging around. We have all heard the saying, “choose your friends wisely.” This is very important because if we want to

have a life that is good quality, our friends need to be of good quality, and we do not need to make friends just so we have more friends.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. (Pro. 13:20)

Always remember, it is not how much stuff you have or how many people you call friends. It is the quality of how you live and the people that you hang around that makes a difference. Quality matters, not quantity.

A. D.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who brought Elijah bread and meat to eat during the drought?
2. What did Elisha do for the Shunammite's son?
3. Complete the Beatitude: "Blessed are the pure in heart..."
4. Which city was the letter to Philemon written from?
5. The desolation of which city is described in Revelation chapter 18?

...ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

And remember last month's questions?

1. What was the name of Isaac's wife?
REBEKAH (Gen. 24:67)
2. For how long did David reign?
FORTY YEARS (2 Sam. 5:4)
3. What "doeth good like a medicine"?
A MERRY HEART (Pro. 17:22)
4. What did the prophet Micah say about Jesus' birth?
HE WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM (Mic. 5:2)
5. What was Peter's mother-in-law sick with?
A FEVER (Mat. 8:14)

THE TONGUE

God has blessed mankind with the ability to talk. Animals have the ability to make noises and communicate with one another, but people are unique in their ability to express themselves in complex languages.

While God has blessed us with the ability to speak, what comes out of our mouths is not always good.

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. (Jas. 3:2)

Unless you are a perfect person, there are times that you say things that you should not say. You may say something unkind, hurtful, or even hateful. You may boast about how good you are. You may say something that isn't true. You may seek to deceive others with your words. You may tell gossip to your neighbor that you should not tell. You may grumble or complain. There are many ways that you can stumble in word.

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! (Jas. 3:3-5)

Even though the tongue is a small member in the body, it causes lots of problems.

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

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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. (Jas. 3:6-8)

The tongue is likened to fire or poison with the harm that it can do.

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. (Jas. 3:9-12)

Sometimes the tongue says good, loving things – even praise of God. Other times the tongue says evil, hurtful things. There should not be both good and bad things coming from your mouth.

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. (Jas. 1:26)

In other words, if one thinks he is a pious person and worships God but he doesn't control his tongue, he deceives himself and is not truly worshipping God. If you want good things to happen in your life and have God listen to your prayers, you must learn to control your tongue.

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (1 Pet. 3:10-12)

Jesus gave the following instruction:

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is

known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.
(Mat. 12:33-35)

The heart is the source of our words. If our hearts are good, we will be careful to only speak good things. But if there is evilness in our hearts, what we say will demonstrate the problem of our hearts. Jesus continued in Matthew 12:36-37,

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

God is interested in the character of our hearts. On the day of judgment we will be judged by the things that we have said because our words demonstrate the nature of our hearts.

Here are some scriptures that tell what should and should not come out of our mouths:

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (Eph. 4:29)

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (Eph. 5:4)

But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. (Jas. 4:16)

Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
(Rom. 12:14)

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.
(Pro. 15:1-2)

But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great

King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Mat. 5:34-37)

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. (Col. 4:5-6)

Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. (Psa. 120:2)

My encouragement to you is to change your heart to change your words. Be careful what you say. Perhaps your prayer can be that of the psalmist in Psalms 141:3: “*Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.*”

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AN EVENING PRAYER

Hymn by C. Maud Battersby

If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way,
Dear Lord, forgive!

If I have uttered idle words or vain,
If I have turned aside from want or pain,
Lest I offend some other through the strain,
Dear Lord, forgive!

If I have been perverse, or hard, or cold,
If I have longed for shelter in the fold,
When thou hast given me some fort to hold,
Dear Lord, forgive!

Forgive the sins I have confessed to thee;
Forgive the secret sins I do not see;
O guide me, love me, and my keeper be
In Jesus' Name.