# Words to Die By: Idle Words

## Matthew 12:34-37

# Standards: God Vs. Man

- Isa. 55:8-9 - “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

# Speech is a Serious Matter

- **Matt. 12:36-37 - "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

# Speech Reveals the Heart

- **Matt. 12:34-35 - "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 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."**

# Idle Words: Obvious Examples

- Using the Lord's name in vain
  - Ex. 20:7 - “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

# Idle Words: Obvious Examples

- **Phil. 2:9-11 - "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

# Idle Words: Obvious Examples

- Evil words
  - 1Peter 3:10 - “For He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.”

# Idle Words: Obvious Examples

- Lying words; divisive words
  - Prov. 6:16-19 - “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

# Idle Words: Obvious Examples

- **Deceitful words**
  - **Rom. 16:18 - "For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."**

# Idle Words: Obvious Examples

- Filthy words
  - Eph. 5:4 - “Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Unrestrained words
  - James 1:26 - “If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Unrestrained words
  - Prov. 10:19 - "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise."
  - Prov. 13:3 - "He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction."

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Words spoken in haste
  - Prov. 29:20 - "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him."
  - James 1:19 - "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath"

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Speaking evil of those in authority
  - Ex. 22:28 - "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people."
  - Jude 8 - "Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries."

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Speaking evil of others
  - Matt. 5:22 - “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.”
  - 1Cor. 6:9-10 - “...Nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- **Flattery**
  - **Psalm 12:1-4 - "Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. 2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart they speak. 3 May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud things, 4 Who have said, With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is lord over us?"**

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- **Flattery**
  - **Rom. 16:18 - "By smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."**

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Rash oaths
  - Ecc. 5:2 - "Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few."
  - James 5:12 - "But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your 'Yes,' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No,' lest you fall into judgment."

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Unwholesome words
  - Euphemisms - A less offensive term that means the same thing as a more offensive word.
  - The person who uses them intends the more offensive term but is trying to be polite enough not to say it.
  - Eph. 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

# Less Obvious Examples Of Unacceptable Speech

- Euphemisms reflect an attitude of heart contrary to the proper spirit of Christian conduct.
  - Eph. 4:31-32 - "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Should lead to edification
  - Eph. 4:29 - "...But what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."
- Should extend grace to others
  - Col. 4:6 - "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Should calm heated conversations
  - Prov. 15:1 - “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Should be a delight to hearers
  - Prov. 15:4, 23 - "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit. 23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!"
  - Prov. 25:11 - "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver."

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Should be characterized by thankfulness
  - Eph. 5:3-4 - "...Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- The hallmark of saints
  - Col. 1:12 - "Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light"
  - Col. 2:7 - "Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving"
  - Col. 4:2 - "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving"

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- **The hallmark of saints**
  - **Col. 3:15-17 - "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."**

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Complaining is unattractive and unproductive for Christians
  - Phil. 2:14-15 - "Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

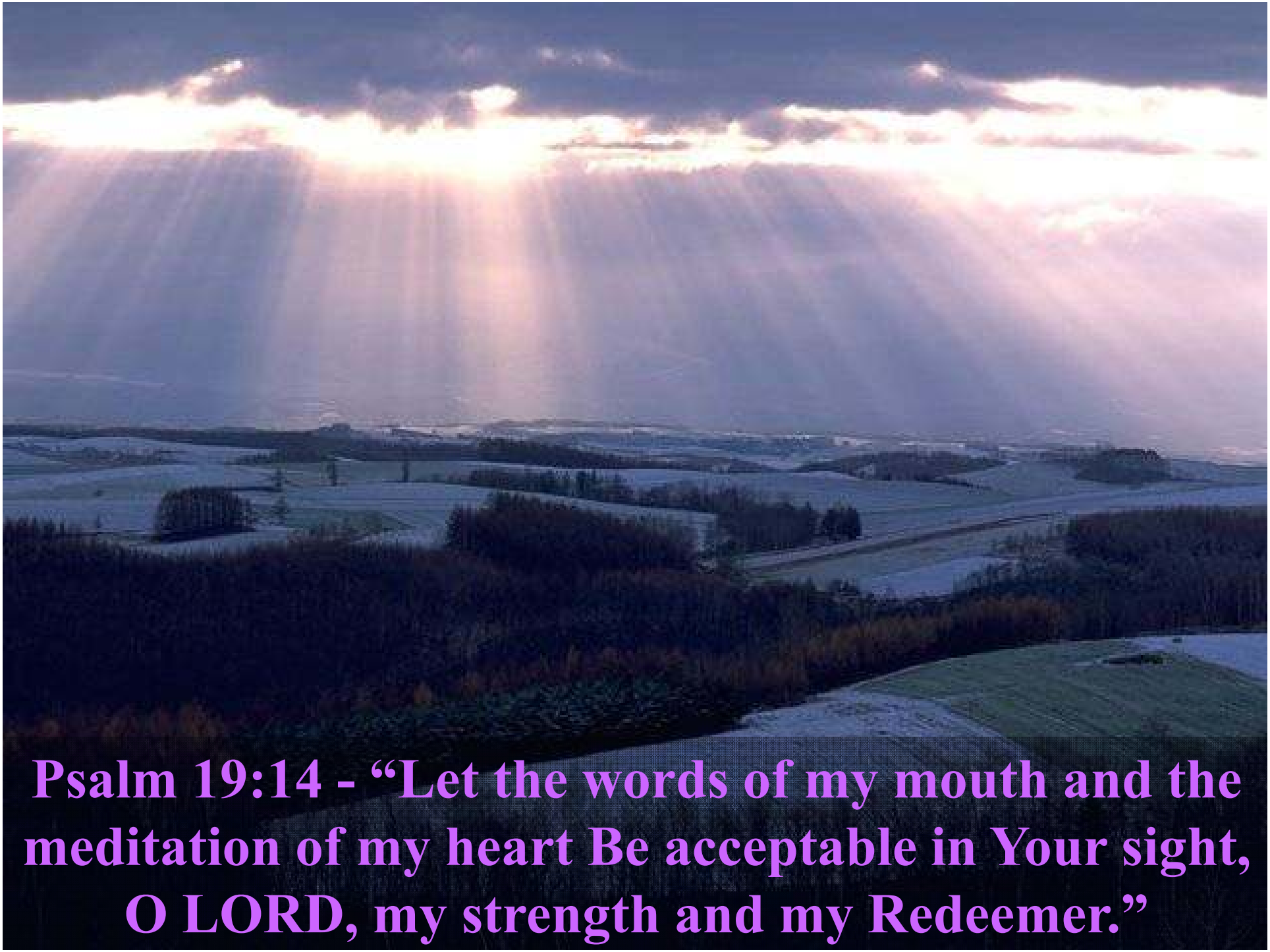
- Require forethought -- carefully considered speech
  - Prov. 15:28 - “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.”

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Speech reflects the heart
  - Matt. 15:17-20 - "Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

# Principles Of Acceptable Speech

- Humbly accepts the rebukes of others who correct the excesses of the tongue
  - Psalm 141:3-5 - "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. 4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies. 5 Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it."


Psalm 19:14 - “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”