

## Grace Saturated Speech

Colossians 4:6

April 21-22, 2007

### Introduction

#### **ILLUS – Words of encouragement from a friend**

1. Words are powerful. They can strengthen or weaken, encourage faith or encourage unbelief, bring vision or create doubt. Words can heal wounds or deepen old wounds.
2. The tongue has the power of life and death.
3. Today, we are going to look at the power of our words and discover how to use our tongues so that God is glorified as others are edified.

### **READ – Colossians 4:6**

### Context

1. The Apostle Paul was concluding his letter to the Colossians, providing final words of vision and exhortation.
2. He encouraged them to be devoted to prayer
3. He also wanted them to pray for open doors for the presentation of the Gospel.
4. Next, Paul dealt with the importance of our speech as we walk through those open doors of opportunity.

### **I. Speak With Grace Always**

#### **A. Let grace be the main course**

1. Here the Apostle Paul declared that our words must be “grace-filled” or “gracious”
2. Grace can be defined as “giving a blessing when a blessing is not deserved.”
3. Jesus Christ set the example for us
  - a. It was prophesied about Him

**Psalm 45:2, “Thou art fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Thy lips; Therefore God has blessed Thee forever.”**

- b. It was realized during His earthly ministry

**Luke 4:22, “And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips;”**

4. We represent Jesus Christ therefore this is God’s ideal for our speech
  - a. Gracious speech reveals maturity in Christ

**Ephesians 4:15, “but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,”**

**ILLUS – Road rage in the name of the Lord?**

- b. Gracious speech brings healing

**Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”**

- c. Gracious speech edifies

**Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”**

- d. Gracious speech is attractive

**Proverbs 25:11, “Like apples of gold in setting of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.”**

**ILLUS – Have you ever met a person that was physically attractive and then they opened their mouth?**

- e. Gracious speech is powerfully persuasive

**Proverbs 25:15, “By forbearance a ruler may be persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.”**

#### **B. Let grace be the seasoning**

1. Salt was a precious commodity in the Near East

2. Salt was used to preserve meat, to keep it pure and free from decay... our speech should have the same impact!

**Ephesians 5:3-4, “But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”**

*ILLUS – Do you want to hear a good joke?*

**Matthew 5:13, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”**

3. Salt was used in the making of ancient covenants
  - a. Salt represented something that was binding and permanent. It was believed in the Near East that salt could not be destroyed by fire.
  - b. Our words have a permanent impact

*ILLUS – The power of words in David Simmons’ life*

4. Salt was used in worship

**Leviticus 2:13, “Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.”**

- a. Grain offerings: no leaven (represents sin)
- b. Salt – pure, eternal, covenant worship
- c. Our words should be like worship

**Hebrews 13:15, “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.”**

5. Grace is the answer
  - a. NOT – “give” an answer (anyone can do that)

- b. BUT – “how” to answer (that takes maturity)

Transition – How can this become a reality in my life?

## **II. Let Grace First Change You**

### **A. No one can tame the tongue**

1. The tongue is a fire

**James 3:1-13**

*ILLUS – Connoisseur of soap by the age of 6*

2. Your words reveal your heart

**Matthew 15:18-20, “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man;”**

*ILLUS – When life bumps you, what comes out?*

### **B. Let God change your heart**

1. We can do nothing apart from Christ

**John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.”**

2. We can do all things through Christ

**Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”**

**APPL – What’s our responsibility?**

- *Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior*

**Romans 10:9-10, “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, as believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”**

➤ *Ask God for grace*

**2 Corinthians 12:9, “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”**

*ILLUS – Ezra 7:20-22, God provided the salt for the worshippers (Chamber of salt)*

➤ *Be slow to speak*

**James 1:19-20, “But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”**

**Proverbs 18:13, “He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.”**

*ILLUS – The example of Dr. John Wecks at Multnomah Seminary*

➤ *Be measured with your words*

**Proverbs 10:19, “When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”**

*ILLUS – The example of Pastor Bob Hoekstra*

## Conclusion

*How are your words? How is your heart? Let’s make the request that King David made of the Lord regarding his words and thoughts...*

**Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”**