

February 13, 2007

“EMPOWERED BY WHAT WE SAY”

Proverbs 18:21 (AMP)

St. Matthew 21:20-21 (AMP)

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- As we continue to look at how we as believers are empowered to do the extraordinary; perhaps one of the most surprising ways is the power of **our** own words.
- Most of us do not realize that the very words we speak either empower us or lead to our destruction.
- James, the brother of Jesus and leader of the Church in Jerusalem, writes, “even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth”.¹
- In Proverbs 18:21 King Solomon, the great wise man said, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”
- What we say often becomes the fuel that empowers us toward our destiny.
- Many business deals have been ruined or consummated by what is said.
- There are relationships that have been destroyed by words that are hurtful.
- There are also relationships that are exciting and wonderful because of effective communication.
- Words can either tear down or build up.
- This is why we have been taught since childhood to think before we speak.
- In some situations, we should also pray before we speak.
- Perhaps if we pray before speaking, then when we speak it will not be out of fear, doubt, or anger, but out of love and divine purpose.
- Our words would empower us to prosper and not lead to our destruction.
- In our scriptural text, we find Jesus instructing His disciples concerning the power of faith and the spoken word.

¹ James 3:5

- The text unfolds during the week of Palm Sunday.
- Jesus, having entered into Jerusalem upon a donkey to the shout of “Hosanna in the highest” by the multitudes, was about to teach His disciples several spiritual lessons.
- One of the lessons Jesus wanted to teach them during Passion Week was the power of the words they spoke.
- In verse 19, Jesus and His disciples approached a fig tree with no fruit (a fruitless tree) and Jesus said to the tree “never again shall fruit grow on you...”
- According to the text, the tree withered up and died, never to bare fruit again.
- In verse 20, the disciples were amazed when they saw what happened to this tree, so they asked Jesus what happened to the tree.
- Jesus told them that they had the power to do just what they had witnessed Him doing.
- He tells them in verse 21 that first, they must have faith, secondly, they must not doubt, thirdly and finally, they must say what they believe.
- Psalm 107:2 reads, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so”.
- As we pursue a life of success let us remember what Solomon says in Proverbs 18:21, “Death (destruction) and life are in the power of the tongue.”
- Speak life and not destruction!