

Words Have Power

Sermon – November 21, 2021

Scripture reading: Mark 4:30-41

Golden verse: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

At the very beginning of the Bible, right in the third verse, we read that God said, “*Let there be light: and there was light.*” Genesis 1:3

Words have power.

Once, our Saviour Jesus Christ was in a very unusual situation. His friend, Lazarus, died, when he was away. Four days later, the Lord Jesus, standing at his grave, cried out in a loud voice,

“‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth.” John 11:43-44

Words have power.

Once Jesus was in a boat with His disciples, and suddenly they found themselves in a storm.

“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.” Mark 4:39

As we pray, we use words to connect to the Lord. We pray and sing aloud to God. Heartfelt speeches carry us “to the mountaintop.” As we are listening to nice music’s melody, the instruments they play can amaze us, but words give songs a specific deep meaning.

Words have power.

How do you feel when somebody you love looks deeply into your eyes with a great smile? Would you feel much better if the person would say some sweet, tender words which resonate in your ear?

Words have power.

Tender, sweet, and lovely words enrich us. But words can be used to harm and destroy. Probably you still recall some words which were hurting you enormously, and because of the marks they left in your heart, you cannot forget them. Maybe some of those words sit on your heart like 500 lbs. of weight.

Sometimes people lose their temper and, for this, they hurt another by striking out verbally. Harsh words can damage or totally emotionally destroy a human heart, self-esteem or a relationship.

But, we have to be extremely careful, realizing that we all can say harmful words, because our hearts and minds are infected by sin. Although Jesus was mocked, He endured it with patience, because in His heart was no sin.

Being under the target of an angry person, who says angry, unfair words, we can feel devastated to the point of paralysis. This is why often people say: "I was shocked and I didn't know what to say".

If you engage yourself in an argument, you can end up emotionally harmed, not only damaged, but also destroyed. If you might find yourself in a similar situation, please kindly follow Christ's example, and walk away from them.

Follow what our Saviour is expecting from us: "*Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.*" Matthew 7:12

Using our Saviour's words, "doing unto others" can be easier said than done.

Today, the Holy Spirit will give us a few tips to help us to keep our communications more positive. If we learn and implement these tips, if we will keep them in our minds and hearts, and if we will follow them accordingly, with God's help we will be able to improve personal relationships, we might reduce conflict, we will be able to strengthen cooperation, and foster understanding.

1. Listen with your mind and heart.

When somebody speaks to you, please pay your full attention. Often, we are listening with only one ear while mentally we are doing something else. The other person, the speaker, might stop in the middle of a sentence and would say to us: "Please listen". We would say, "just talk and I am listening." The speaker's reply would be: "You are NOT listening. After you finish what you are doing, I will continue, when I will have your full attention."

If we listen carefully and patiently until the person finishes the sentence, and then we pause to think, it gives us a chance to have a fruitful conversation.

We have to listen carefully and think before we speak.

2. Ask Christ Jesus to be part of our conversation.

We have to remember, that our Lord Jesus Christ is with us not only when we ask Him to be with us. He is constantly present in all our conversations and listens to

all our words. Remember, he was present on the street two days after He resurrected when Thomas was not able to believe that Jesus is alive.

Thomas said to his disciple friends: *“Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”* John 20:25.

When we are talking to our spouses, to our children, friends, neighbours and colleagues, we have to ask ourselves: what is Jesus saying now as He listens to me? Let’s always mentally imagine Jesus listening to us. This could make us to be more careful about what we would say.

3. Listen with an open heart.

Listen with open heart means that we always should assume the best about the other person. It is very dangerous to read anything negative into what someone else says. We have to provide credit to the other person, picturing the best about the other person’s intentions. If you would not understand the intention of that person, please ask them: “Why are you saying this to me? What are your intentions?”

My responsibility and your responsibility is:

1. first, to be kind;
2. secondly, to be kind;
3. and then, to be kind.

4. Choose humbleness.

If you cannot agree with something, you don’t have to push the other person to agree with you, and you don’t have to agree with him. If you would like to remain friends, although you disagree on something, just be a genuine person. There is nothing wrong with respectfully saying “I cannot change your mind and you cannot change mine. At this point, let’s agree to disagree.” Then change the subject.

5. Remain calm.

Let’s pause for a second and recall how many mistakes we made when we said something while we were angry or emotionally upset. We should learn to put off responding verbally or in text messages until later. Otherwise, when we are angry or emotionally upset, we could say something we will regret.

6. Speak truth in kindness.

Sometimes people are hesitating to say or tell the truth, because they are afraid that the truth will hurt the other person.

Dear beloved, we have to learn that truth is truth, and we have to tell that with love and kindness. We have to leave it with the other person, and we have to give them time to digest the truth. However, we have to be very careful not to tell them the truth from our own perspective, but the REAL TRUTH.

7. Be clear.

Probably, we have been in situations when we said just a few words, assuming that the other person will understand what we meant. Then the other person said to us something like: “What do you mean? I don’t understand you. Speak clearly!” Then we said: “Well, put together the puzzle.”

It is not easy to put together THEIR puzzle when the words and information are blurry, and it is time consuming to find out what they wanted to say. We can easily misinterpret them. For this, we have to be always clear in our words, detailed, explaining things with a caring a positive, empathetic tone.

8. Ask for a co-reader.

If you write a letter with a serious concern, ask another friend to read your letter first, and ask for feedback. This will help you to see what others might understand by reading your concern.

9. Admit, apologize and forgive.

It can be quite difficult to admit an error if we were saying something repeatedly, then we realized we were wrong. We have to learn to admit that we can be wrong.

Also, we have to forgive someone who was hurting us.

Also, we have to forgive ourselves if we were wrong, and we should not dwell too much on our own mistakes.

10. “First love, then do what you want.”

This is a quote from St. Augustine. We have to remember to love one another.

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35 Amen