

DISCUSSION

This is a message that we all need to keep bookmarked and pull out and listen to again, and again, and again, and....I think we all know somebody and/or a couple who didn't hear the message that could benefit from it (I sure did!). Feel free to grab it from our website and pass it on. There is so much in here to unpack in a few discussion notes! Let's dig in!

1. What ONE or TWO immediate "take-aways" did you walk away with that you can apply in your life TODAY? Share those with somebody to hold you accountable.
2. Look up: Prov. 18:19-21, Matt. 12: 34-37, and James 4:1-5 What SPECIFICALLY do these verses say about the power of the tongue? What other verses can you find about the power of the tongue...do some research? Why is scripture so specific about this topic?

Four Rules for biblical communication: Read Ephesians 4:25-32

1. Be honest. v. 25
"Truth without love is brutality; love without truth is hypocrisy."
"Speak the truth in love and always both."
"Truth without love is like doing surgery without anesthetic."
Are you always honest in your communication? Do you bathe it in love? Which one of those two (honesty and love) comes more naturally for you? Why? What do you need to do to reach balance to have both as your norm? Why is balance so difficult? How and when did Jesus, or others from Scripture, demonstrate this?
2. Keep current. vv. 26-27
"Keep short accounts with one another!"
"Problems cannot be solved unless they are expressed."
Why is it so important to keep "short accounts" or "express problems/concerns/issues?" How, when, and where did Jesus talk about this and model this for us?
3. Attack the problem, not the person. – vv. 29-30, Ephesians 4:15
Why do we attack somebody's character so quickly? What sin is the root cause of that? Do you fight like a bear or not? (Listen to the message if you can't remember).
4. Act, don't react! vv. 31-32
How would your life, day-to-day relationships, and the world be different if you (we) could live out verses 31-32 EVERYDAY! Pray that this may be your new norm!
"God's forgiveness for us motivates our forgiveness of others." As a Christ-follower, who (singular/plural) do you have in your life that needs your forgiveness? Pray for a time to do this and invite somebody in your life to walk alongside of you and hold you accountable.

Finally: Review the "Six check-points before bringing up problems." Do a self-diagnosis on how you are doing with these? Memorize Ephesians 4:31-32. Keep it in your "hip pocket" and pull it out often.