

A Soft Answer Turns Away Wrath

(Proverbs 15:1)

- Introduction:
1. As disciples, our aim and God's desire for us is to conform our lives into the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29).
 2. That is a tall task, knowing that Jesus never sinned (1 Peter 2:22).
 3. It involves a transformation in the way we act, think, and speak.
 4. In this lesson, I'd like for us to consider our speech.

I. Proverbs 15:1 - Considerations

- A. The Nature of a Proverb.
1. Proverbs are maxims; general truths.
 2. Like with all "general truths," there are exceptions.
 - a. (Proverbs 3:1-2).
 - b. (Proverbs 22:4,6,11).
 - c. (Proverbs 15:1).
 3. Failing to understand the nature of a proverb will undermine our faith in God's word.
- B. Jesus' Application of Proverbs 15:1.
1. Sometimes people will attempt to use Jesus as an excuse for their sin.
 2. Such is the case with their use of the tongue.
 3. (Matthew 23) is used as a "proof-text" for being mean-spirited, harsh, cutting, biting, and offensive.
 - a. It is true that Jesus spoke very plainly to these people, but he knew their hearts (Mark 2:8; Luke 6:8).
 - b. We don't have that ability (1 Corinthians 2:11) so we must follow love's demand to "think the best" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
 4. Jesus also spoke kindly and softly (Luke 7:40-48).

II. Proverbs 15:1 - Suggestions

- A. Pick Your Battles (Proverbs 3:30).
- B. Wait Before You Speak (James 1:19-20).
- C. Speak The Truth In Love (Ephesians 4:15).
- D. Remember, Hurt People Hurt People (1 Peter 4:8).
- E. Agree With Your Adversary (Matthew 5:25).
- F. Maintain Humility (James 4:10; Proverbs 26:4).

- Conclusion:
1. Today's lesson is more than just a lesson on the tongue.
 2. It is more than just a lesson on discipleship.
 3. Today's lesson is a lesson that if heeded will help us to save the lost, and if ignored will hinder the lost from being saved.
 4. May God help us to have wisdom, self-control, and humility in order to speak to people in a soft, kind, and gentle manner.