**Gracious Speech**

*Do not be rash with your mouth,   
      And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.   
      For God is in heaven, and you on earth;   
      Therefore let your words be few* ( Eccl. 5:2 NKJ )

I would like to integrate our study with last week’s topic on self –discipline. We mentioned that self -discipline begins with transformation of the heart. This transformation is actively **purposed**, **learned** and **exercised.**

Please read Matthew 12:33-37- what is the point(s) Christ is making regarding the **heart** and **speech?**

1. The heart is the *fountain*, the words are the streams ([Matt. 12:34](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.12.34)); *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*,
2. The heart is the *treasury*, the words are the treasure brought out of that treasury ([Matt. 12:35](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.12.35))
3. Christ speaks here concerning *idle words*, and shows what evil there is in them ([Matt. 12:36, 37](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.12.36,Matt.12.37))

These verses intimate::

* That God takes notice of every word we say, even that which we ourselves do not notice.  [Ps. 139:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ps.139.4).
* That vain, idle, indiscreet talk is displeasing to God,( i.e. any words that do not have a good purpose, do not seek to edify-da)
* These *idle words* are the same as the … *foolish talking and jesting* which is forbidden, in [Eph. 5:4](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Eph.5.4). This is that sin found in… *the multitude of words (Proverbs 10:18-20,*and …*unprofitable talk*,… [Job 15:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job.15.3).
* We will account for these idle words; they will be produced in evidence against us

**Definition**

***gracious*** from Latin : means  **pleasing;**  , **good will;** *(Strong’s)*

*Literal: A* ***disposition*** *to be generous or helpful; goodwill.*

**1.**Characterized by kindness and warm courtesy.

**2.**Characterized by tact and propriety: as in “*responded to the insult with gracious humor.”*

**3.**Of a merciful or compassionate nature. (*Thayer*)

***Synonyms:* cordial, genial, sociable**  
These adjectives mean marked by **kindness, sympathy, and unaffected politeness:** (Oxford Dictionary,

**Pray for a gentle quiet spirit-strive to be a woman who has something valuable to say when she speaks (Proverbs 16:23, Ps.19:14).**

**Mean what you say when you do speak ( Eccl. 5:5-be constant)**

**Take time to think before you speak-really listen first (Eccl.5:1)**

**Spend some time each day in silence (Jer.37:14, 38:5, Psalms 19:14)**

**Become a person of understanding who can “draw out others” (Prov.20:5)**

**Reflection :**

* How do you teach gracious speech?
* What is the source of gracious speech? (heart, holiness)
* Who is responsible for practicing gracious speech?

**Application:**

1. Begins @home (lovable, respectful, kind, patient and appropriate) ( avoid scatology, euphemisms)
2. With brothers and sisters (welcoming ,interested, smiling, disposed toward caring-teaching to be humble, words accompanied with deeds)
3. Those in the world (measured, sober, patient, kind ,humble)

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