

Message #38

Proverbs 12:13-23

Socrates once told a student who wanted him to teach him how to become a skilled orator, “I will have to charge you a double fee...I will have to teach you two sciences: The first, how to hold your tongue and then how to use it!”

ONE’S WISDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OR FOOLISHNESS AND WICKEDNESS IS DETERMINED BY OUR SPEECH.

Think of the power of your speech—build up or tear down, generate or destroy friendship, communicate truth of God or things of hell.

SPEECH POINT #1 – Our speech will either trap us or deliver us. **12:13**

There is an old rabbinic proverb which says, “...if you always tell the truth, you don’t have to remember what you said.”

SPEECH POINT #2 – Our speech can produce great satisfaction. **12:14**

The word “satisfied” is a Hebrew word that means full satisfaction. Solomon’s point here is if you use your speech in a godly manner, you will be paid back by being fully satisfied, not depressed and miserable.

SPEECH POINT #3 – Our attitude toward counsel determines one is wise or a fool. **12:15**

A wise person is quick to listen to righteous counsel from God’s Word.

SPEECH POINT #4 – Our use of speech in difficult settings determines one is righteous or a fool. **12:16**

When someone provokes us emotionally, the way we respond determines wisdom or folly. A fool immediately explodes, but a wise person conceals a dishonorable response.

SPEECH POINT #5 – Our truthfulness determines whether we are wise or a fool. **12:17**

Wise people are truthful people, but a fool is a deceitful person.

SPEECH POINT #6 – Our speech will either hurt people or heal people. **12:18**

SPEECH POINT #7 – Our speech either makes an eternal or temporal difference. **12:19**

SPEECH POINT #8 – Our motivation for our speech determines whether we and others have joy. **12:20**

SPEECH POINT #9 – Our wise or foolish use of speech determines adversity. **12:21**

SPEECH POINT #10 – Our use of speech determines God’s perspective of us. **12:22**

SPEECH POINT #11 – Our control of speech determines one wise or a fool. **12:23**

Someone has said there are two types of speakers in the world—those who have something to say and those who have to say something. A wise person is “prudent,” very cautious about, but a fool will emotionally explode and say anything regardless of how ignorant.