

Family TableTalk

Conversation 50

A Matter of Life and Death

read

Proverbs 18:21

think

Whoever said “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me” must have never had anyone say anything mean or cruel to them. Things that have been said to us and things we’ve said to others have long lasting impact. This is because our words are powerful and far reaching, and as broken sinners we use our words more often than we’d like in ways that bring death instead of life. Growing up I teased my brother about his inability to sing and to this day he doesn’t really sing. My words killed his willingness to sing.

As we’ve all been living in close proximity to each other more than we’ve been used to we’ve all probably said things to one another that we may now regret. We’ve said things with the intention to hurt without probably thinking about the long term impact, without knowing that our words can kill things in each other.

But our words can also bring life. We see in Genesis 1 God use his words to literally create life. God spoke and all things were created. And in John 1 we see the Word of God, Jesus, come into the world to bring light and life for all who believe.

The Word of God, Jesus, gives us full and abundant life. May we use our words, then, to bring life to those around us, that they may see God’s Word at work in us.

apply

- Think about a time you experienced words that brought death. How about a time they brought life?
- Do you think people have a harder or easier time using words to bring life, or to bring death? Why?
- What are some ways we can use our words to bring life?

pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for the ability to use words. We confess that we don’t always use them in ways that bring life. Please forgive us. Jesus, we ask that you would give us the ability and desire to use our words to bring life so others would see you work in us. By the power of your Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

by Rick Hutton

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