

# WORDS

## FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST

### John 7:45-46

Words are interesting things capable of any number of uses. Men of valor use them in pursuit of noble goals (II Kgs. 23:1-3); scoundrels use them to accomplish hidden agendas (Prov. 23:1-8). Words can be very powerful things for both good and evil.

Culture acknowledges the varied number of ways people might regard words. *"It's only words, and words are all I have to take your heart away"* (The Bee Gees). *"A picture is worth a thousand words"* (adapted from Fred R. Barnard). *"All our words are but crumbs that fall down from the feast of the mind"* (Kahlil Gibran). *"By words we learn thoughts, and by thoughts we learn life"* (Jean Baptiste Girard).

Jesus puts the subject of words at the center of our being, *"The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks"* (Luke 6:45). Further, Paul shows the vital place of words in allowing God to communicate with us Spirit to spirit I Cor. 2:10-16).

## THE LEAST

- I'm Just Saying—when words can almost be meaningless (I Tim. 6:20; II Tim. 2:16)
- Secular Concerns—things that perish with the passage of time (II Cor. 4:18).
  - Matthew 6:24-34; I Timothy 4:8; 6:6-7
  - James 4:13-16; Luke 12:15-21
- Idle words—ill thought out yet very revealing (Matt. 12:36)
- Destruction (Ps. 52:4; Jas. 3:5-8)

## THE GREATEST

- Building up (Eph. 4:29)
- Judgment (Matt. 12:37)
- Life (Jn. 6:63)
- The Logos of God (Jn. 1:1-18; 14:7-9)
- Sweet Communion (I Cor. 2:10-16)

Words are amazing things. They set us apart and attest to the nature of our "beginning" (Gen. 1:26-27). They can be things of no value; they can destroy and damage, they can build up and accomplish great things; they can open up the very heart of God.