

## Proverbs – Wise Speech: Be Careful What You Say

### KEY VERSE

**18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

See also *James 3:1-12*: "...the tongue is a fire ..."

### 1. DON'T SAY TOO MUCH

**10:19** When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

**29:20** Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

**18:13** If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

**18:6** A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating.

### 2. DON'T SAY TOO LITTLE

**25:11** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

**12:18** There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

**12:25** Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

**15:23** To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

**22:11** He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

### 3. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING

**2:12** ... delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech..

**4:24** Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.

**26:28** A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

**12:19** Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

**15:1** A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**16:32** Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

**19:11** Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

See also *1 Samuel 25: David, Nabal, and Abigail*

### 4. THINK ABOUT WHO YOU ARE SPEAKING TO

**17:4** An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue.

**18:8** The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

**23:9** Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.

**26:4** Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

**26:5** Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

**9:8** Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

See also *Luke 8:31-2*: And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."