



Key Notes

LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS

*Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips...
(Isaiah 6:5)*

During World War II, the Office of War Information printed thousands of posters with the slogan: *Loose lips sink ships*. These words reminded Americans of the danger of inadvertently sharing information about ship sailing times and destinations. In the hands of an enemy, this could be deadly. While I have no knowledge of whether this campaign actually saved lives, it reminds me of something I do have knowledge about: words matter!

Consider how many sins are related to the mouth: lying, cursing, taking God's name in vain, dirty jokes, gossip, slander, verbal abuse, name-calling, etc. And it's not just what we say that gets us into trouble but what we *fail* to say. Think of the damage done by unexpressed love, silence in the face of lies, and missed opportunities for witness. Yes, loose lips can wreak havoc in your soul... and others'!

Jesus explains why our tongue is so important. *For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34)*. Nothing comes out of the mouth that wasn't first in the heart. Like a gauge on the dashboard of a car, the tongue lets everyone know what is really going on under the hood. Our eternal destinies will be determined by a review of the words we have spoken.

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned (Matthew 12:36-37).

This makes me join Isaiah in his cry of despair: *Woe to me! I am ruined!* Is there any hope? Can the tongue be tamed?

God could have responded to Isaiah's need by washing his mouth out with soap. But the problem was much deeper than that. God's solution required fire (Isaiah 6:6-7). I'm intrigued by the fact that when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, he came in sanctifying fire and the first part of the body to be affected was the tongue (Acts 2:1-4)!

Friend, God wants to sanctify your tongue. Your very salvation is at stake. But it will take more than soap and water. This morning as you worship, ask God to do for you what he did for Isaiah. Allow God's Spirit to cleanse your heart through holy fire so that your tongue will be transformed in the process. When this happened to foul-mouthed Isaiah, he began to use his mouth in new ways. He became a prophet of grace and truth. God can do that with your tongue too!

Pastor Stan