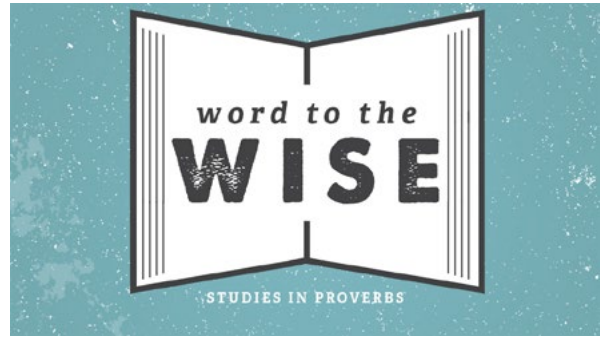


# beyond<sup>the</sup>weekend

For the sermon on July 12-13, 2014  
"Words Matter"



**Welcome to *Beyond the Weekend*!** The experiences below are designed to connect with the weekend message. Take 20-30 minutes each day and enjoy your pursuit of God! ***Beyond the Weekend*** is also available via daily e-mails. To sign up, go to [adabible.org/btw](http://adabible.org/btw).

*During July and August, we are traveling through the book of Proverbs. We are reading one chapter a day for two months, thus reading Proverbs twice this summer. Enjoy!*

## Day 1 Colossians 3.15-17 | Words

As UNION pastor Brad Holmes reminds us, "words are significant." Words can build us up and they can tear us down. They can encourage and shape us; they can crush and destroy us.

The Apostle Paul told the early church the same thing when he wrote, "And whatever you do *in word or in deed*, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3.17). A significant part of doing everything in the name of Jesus is our speech. As a Jesus follower, with a goal of Christlikeness, our words matter. When people look at us, they should "see" Jesus. When they hear us, they should "hear" him.

**Today read Proverbs 14** and select one proverb that stands out. Also, take some time and review two or three significant conversations you've had recently, especially the most difficult one of the day. Note the ways people "heard Jesus" and the ways they didn't. Confess those conversations that didn't reflect Jesus and pray for the conversations you'll have tomorrow.

## Day 2 Proverbs 15.4 | Healing

Words, especially those in heated or challenging conversations, have one of two results: helpful or painful. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of the Bible, *The Message*, is right to the point, "Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim" (Proverbs 15.4). The analogy is medical in nature: kind words bring health and recovery while cutting words—like a knife—bring damage and pain.

Because we can speak words very quickly, sometimes without much thought, we're often not aware of the damage we inflict: a critical comment about a coworker, a witty retort to our spouse, and voicing an uninformed conclusion. We even have a phrase for such remarks—using the metaphor of a knife—we *cut them* down to size.

**Today after you read Proverbs 15**, list on a sheet of paper the five people with whom you have most of your conversations. Then make two columns, "Healing" and "Cutting," and place each person in one of the columns. Pray for the power of God's Spirit to change your "Cutting" conversations to "Healing."

## Day 3 Proverbs 16.24 | Sweet

One of the “disciplines” of speech is knowing when to speak and when to remain silent. Often, we don’t *have* to speak. But believing it’s important to be heard (sometimes it is, but many times it’s not), we jump into the conversation. When we do, it’s our responsibility to make sure our words are “sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” (Proverbs 16.24).

As you begin your day, ask God for wisdom and discipline (James 1.5) about conversations you *should* enter and those you *shouldn’t*. When you decide to speak, make sure your words are “sweet.” **Continue your reading through Proverbs with chapter 16** and select one verse on which to focus.

## Day 4 Proverbs 26.18-19 | Sarcasm

For many of us, sarcasm comes naturally. No matter the situation, we’re always ready with a biting comment. While the comment may initially draw a few laughs, the result can be “a wide burn zone” around me on the other side of which were a growing number of people who doubted my sincerity and feared talking to me” (Edward Viljoen, *The Danger of Sarcasm*, patheos.com, October 17, 2013). It’s exactly what’s described in Proverbs 26.18-19, “Like a maniac shooting flaming arrows of death...”

**Today after reading Proverbs 17**, read and reflect on Edward Viljoen’s entire column. (Located here: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/theprinciplesofspiritualliving/2013/10/the-danger-of-sarcasm/>.) Think of ways—maybe in the area of electronic communication—where you can practice “genuine thoughtfulness, old fashioned decency, listening, and responding to other points of view with grace, subtlety and finesse” instead of sarcasm.

## Day 5 Matthew 12.33-37 | Heart

One of the easiest ways for anyone to determine what we’re really like is to listen to our speech, “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Matthew 12.34). What we are on the inside, our mouth will give evidence of on the outside. When we speak, we simply reproduce what’s in our heart. “But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander” (Matthew 15.18-19).

A heart filled with ill will, lust, anger, hate, or bitterness, will quickly be revealed by our speech. If your speech reveals “acts of the flesh” (Galatians 5.19-21), spend time today and this weekend in repentance as you trust God’s Spirit to work on these areas. **Continue reading through Proverbs by reading chapter 18 today and chapters 19-20 this weekend.**

## MORE

**Daily E-mail** | Sign up for daily e-mails at [adabible.org/btw](http://adabible.org/btw).

**Small Group Discussion** | For a discussion guide related to the sermon, e-mail [rcorlett@adabible.org](mailto:rcorlett@adabible.org).

**Questions or Comments** | Contact Doug Redford, adult ministries pastor, at [dredford@adabible.org](mailto:dredford@adabible.org).



ada bible church

868.7005 | [adabible.org](http://adabible.org)