

What Are You Drinking?

The mouth of a good person is a deep, life-giving well, but the mouth of the wicked is a dark cave of abuse. Proverbs 10:11 The Message

There are days when I have absolutely no idea how to even begin to share my thoughts with you. I start by typing a couple of paragraphs and then, after reading what I've written, I usually back space over most of it and start the process all over again. I usually go through this routine several times until reaching a place in the night where things finally snap together (or I finally snap!). Either way, getting the first few lines of one of these e-messages is often quite the chore.

Most of the time, it's much more difficult for me to write these few paragraphs than it is to prepare the weekend's message! Knowing exactly what I want to say, but struggling with exactly how to say it, I have spent many hours working on something that, hopefully, will only take a couple of minutes for you to read.

This week I want to challenge you to wrap your mind around one simple verse in Proverbs. Reading Proverbs, by the way, is a really great way to get you into the Word. Proverbs is jam-packed with incredible, down-to-earth wisdom and great insights that make living the High Life an accessible reality. You can easily go through the entire book of Proverbs every month by reading only one chapter a day!

Check out verse 11 of chapter 10 of the book of Proverbs and it doesn't take long to figure out the topic of our conversation. We're talking about the one thing through which flows the power to both elevate and to devastate. Through this single orifice we utilize the ability to build up and to tear down.

Obviously, everybody's got one! The good, the bad and the ugly—some are bigger than others—but each and every one of us possess our very own. I'm sure you know what it is we're talking about ... we're talking about our mouth!

The Good and the Wicked.

My favorite definition of the word "good" is something that gives of itself for the betterment of its environment. We often say, "God is good!" When we make this statement we're actually testifying about the fact that God gives of Himself for the betterment of His environment. "For God so loved the world that He gave." He is a "good" God! He is improving everything around Him. He speaks life and light and death and darkness have to flee. Not simply because He's strong, but because He is good!

The word "wicked", on the other hand, holds a slightly different connotation. This word suggests, when applied to a personality, that one is separated from any and every thing that is good. It refers to something that is sick or diseased. Rather than possessing the ability to speak life and light, wickedness directs the attention towards the darker side. The final goal for that which is wicked is to be separated from anything good. So, death (separation) is the ultimate end of wickedness.

Deep vs. Dark

Let's face it. We're either digging wells or drilling caves. In the depths of the good man's mouth words of life and peace are found for thirsty souls. The mouth of the evil is dark and abusive. Those who wander into that cave unaware are likely to pay the price for making such a mistake.

The Amplified Bible says in Matthew 12:35, "The good man from his inner good treasure flings forth good things, and the evil man out of his inner evil storehouse flings forth evil things." We need to consider the product that is being flung into the atmosphere by our life. Are the words of our mouth deep, life-giving, and refreshing or does the hearer suddenly need to locating night vision goggles as soon as we open our mouth? C'mon—get real. What are you flinging?

A Well or a Cave

It's totally up to us, you know? Whether we're digging wells or hiding in our cave, we possess the power to make that choice. Not a single one of us are actually stuck in a cave without any way of escape. Jesus told us in Matthew 12 to "either make the tree good or make the tree evil." What we make it is totally up to us.

The life of the cave dweller is easy. You just hang out in the darkness and fling at others the same junk that have been flung at you. However, if you chose to be a digger of wells you must be willing to lace up your working boots. You should probably consider finding your gloves, rolling up your sleeves and packing a lunch, too. This could be a pretty long day!

In Psalm 84 David spoke of a very special type of character. He wrote about the man who, while passing through the valley of weeping, stopped long enough to dig a well. This is a man who could have cast himself down upon the ground, thrown the ultimate pity-party, and then simply given up the ghost. He could have flung excuses all over the place regarding his dark and nasty attitude. Instead, according to David, this blessed man refused to go dark when he had the opportunity to go deep!

Recognizing the harshness of the barren dessert that his journey had led him through, this man stopped in his tracks and began to dig. He pressed through the pain of his current situation in an effort to leave a mark. his mark ... upon the hard, cracked, desert floor instead of allowing the elements through which he traveled to place even a mark upon him. "Just in case somebody else should travel this way behind me," he thinks to himself, "I'm going to make a few changes in the scenery around here. I'm going to dig a well. That way, when others have traveled this way they'll carry away memories of a deep, life-giving well instead of a dark, abusive cave!"

What do others experience when they step into our environment? Is it life-giving refreshment or dark, depressing abuse? The choice is ours. Let's do whatever it takes to be diggers of wells!

We believe in YOU!

Pastors Thom and Shelby