

SEPT 13th, 2020

STICKS & STONES; TREES & FRUIT

True or false:

*“Sticks and stones may break my bones,
but words will never hurt me.”*

“The human spirit will endure sickness, but a broken spirit -
who can bear?” - Proverbs 18:14

“Fools show their anger at once, but the prudent ignore an
insult.” - Proverbs 12:16

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up
anger.” - Proverbs 15:1

“Rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise
brings healing.” - Proverbs 12:18

*When it comes to our conversations, arguments, and
relationships, let's look at our _____ and
not just the _____.*

Why we produce _____:

1. Our _____. Matt. 12:33-37
2. Our _____ and _____. Matt. 12:1-32; James
4:1-10; Matt. 5:19-23

**How we can cultivate _____ and
produce good fruit for _____:**

1. Continually abide in _____. John 15:1-17
2. Continually weed out _____ or _____.
James 5:1-12
3. Continually _____ words of life. James 5:13-16

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week can really help clarify the things that God is teaching you and let others learn from your experiences. Get with someone this week and talk about your answers to the following questions:

What thought from the message was most helpful to you?

What thought from the message was most challenging to you?

When it comes to conversation, arguments, or relationships, why do we tend to focus on the words (typically even more so of others) rather than deeper issues in ourselves?

How is God calling you to respond to the message?

What questions remain for you about our words reflecting on our innermost being?

What are some practical ways that you can cultivate healthier soil (e.g., prioritizing Scripture reading in the morning to set your heart/mind, temporarily refraining from posting on comment boards, limiting social media consumption, etc.)?

What would you like the group to join you in praying about?

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*When it comes to our conversations, arguments, and
relationships, let's look at our **WHOLE SELVES** and
not just the **WORDS**.*

Why we produce BAD FRUIT:

1. Our SINFULNESS. Matt. 12:33-37
2. Our INSECURITIES and INTAKE. Matt. 12:1-32; James 4:1-10;
Matt. 5:19-23

How we can cultivate HEALTHIER SOIL and produce good fruit for PEOPLE AROUND US:

1. Continually abide in CHRIST. John 15:1-17
2. Continually weed out APATHY or IMPATIENCE. James 5:1-12
3. Continually SOW words of life. James 5:13-16

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