

Watch your Mouth

Sermon Notes
by Dr. Tony Evans

MESSAGE 4:

GOD IN YOUR GUMS

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Exodus 4:10-13 (NASB)

¹⁰ Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." ¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" ¹² "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." ¹³ But he said, "Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message is to let people know that when God asks us to do something that requires us to speak, He enables us to do that through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION:

Our mouths are very powerful. With them, we have the means to build kingdoms and destroy civilizations. Yet, many of us do not believe that such power exists in our speech; like Moses, we consider ourselves incapable of speaking the will of God into others' lives. But God reminds us in His Word that He is the maker of our mouths. If He has called us to preach the good news, encourage the downtrodden with a kind word, or speak victory over our problems, He will also give us the words to say through the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. While God's Word informs us of the big picture (truths that apply to everyone), the Holy Spirit helps us contextualize that Word to our ever-changing personal situations. But the Holy Spirit will not force us into compliance; if we want our words to be used by God, we must submit ourselves to that Spirit and ask Him to govern our tongues. Being a Christian does not mean that every word that comes out of our mouths are now holy. With our unclean lips, we are still very capable of talking over the Holy Spirit and drowning out the words He is trying to give us. Therefore, we should ask Him to clean our lips, control our tongue and allow our words to be used as tools for the building of His kingdom.

SERMON POINTS:

1. GOD IS THE MAKER OF OUR MOUTHS AND IF HE CALLS US TO SPEAK, HE WILL GIVE US THE WORDS TO SAY.

- However inadequate we feel regarding our ability to say the right thing to the right people at the right time, God empowers us for service.
- The call to preach the good news is for all Christians, regardless of our understanding of our own gifts.
- Moses was of inadequate speech, but the Lord gave him the authority to speak bold and powerful words before Pharaoh.

2. WE SPEAK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF GOD, AS THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US UTTERANCE.

- The way that God empowers Christians to speak the truth is through the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.
- That same Spirit "fills" us, which is evidenced by bold, powerful and biblically sound speech before others.
- Through the Spirit, God becomes our speech writer, and determines what words to say even in the most difficult of circumstances.

3. GOD'S WORD PROVIDES US WITH THE BIG PICTURE, BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTEXTUALIZES THAT PICTURE TO THE DETAILS OF OUR LIVES.

- The Bible provides us with the big picture; the Spirit provides us with the details.
- The Bible provides us with revelation for everyone; the Spirit provides interpreters that truth for us as individuals.
- The Bible provides us with the playbook; the Spirit provides us with audibles.
- The Bible speaks to us about general matters; the Spirit personalizes those same matters.



Watch Your Mouth Growth and Study Guide

Tony Evans' newest Bible study designed to take you through the truth of Scripture to better understand the power of the tongue.

Available online where Christian books are sold.

Watch your Mouth

Sermon Notes
by Dr. Tony Evans

4. WE NEED TO ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GOVERN OR CONTROL OUR TONGUES.

- It is hard to hear anyone talking when we are talking over them.
- The Holy Spirit tries to talk to us, but He can't be heard because we talk too much ourselves.
- Our speech is unclean and self-centered which prevents us from knowing that which the Spirit would have us know.
- In order to hear the Holy Spirit, we just need to shut up, that is, surrender our tongues to Him and ask Him to clean up our language.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

DANGEROUS ANIMALS ARE PUT BEHIND BARS: We have all been to the zoo. We've been there ourselves. We've taken our children or other relatives. The most vicious animals you will find in the zoo are in a cage, and they're in a cage because they're so dangerous. There are bars on that cage to hold that animal in. That cage is a container, limiting how far that lion or tiger or gorilla can go because we know that if those dangerous animals ever broke out of that cage, somebody's going to get hurt. And so, for those dangerous animals, incarceration is necessary in order to manage the damage that they could do. The correlation here is that our tongues are dangerous animals (our speech has the power to do damage), and so they are behind bars (our teeth).

NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS: Television news comes at us in two basic forms: the national news and the local news. On the national news, we get the big picture; we're informed on federal politics, global crises, international business developments, and the goings-on of famous celebrities. We get the scores and stats of teams in the NFL, NHL, NBA and MLB. Even the weather given to us is broad and sweeping in its content; a rapid-fire of temperatures and major weather systems across the country serve to give us a general idea of national weather. But, the local news informs us about the goings-on in our individual worlds. We find out about local police news, school news,

local weather, sports scores for teams that play in our area, etc. Often, the national news (which applies to everyone in the country) becomes more relevant to us when it's connected to local events. For example, the results of the general election are national news, but local elections inform the general elections, as we get to see which congressman from what district won that election and will be moving to Washington as part of congress. The correlation here is that God's Word functions as national news and provides general truths that apply to all, but the indwelling Holy Spirit applies those truths to the context of individual people and individual circumstances.

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS AUDIBLES: In the NFL, there is a rule book and all 32 teams have to abide by it. But each of those teams has their own play book. Each play book is different, designed for specific strategy employed by each individual team. However, each play book must be consistent with the rule book; you can't have a play book operating outside of the rule book. The Bible is God's rule book. It applies to all people. The Holy Spirit operates as our play book by guiding you uniquely from everybody else.

In keeping with all that is written in the rule book, the play book attempts to adjust in conjunction with the team's need for a change in strategy. So, the information in the play book changes, whereas the rule book stays the same. Beyond this, the offensive coordinator (OC) will make adjustments to plays during the game. The quarterback can even change that strategy on the field while the clock is running by calling an audible. When this happens, everyone on the field makes a last minute adjustment to what they are going to do once the ball is snapped. This is the organic nature of football. In order for the offensive coordinator or the quarterback to make these kinds of adjustments, they have to know the rule book well enough to never break its rules while making adjustments.

The Holy Spirit calls audibles in our lives. He knows God's Word, because He is God. As such, He will never steer us or guide us in a way that is inconsistent with Scripture. We might start out walking in a particular direction in our



Watch Your Mouth Growth and Study Guide

Tony Evans' newest Bible study designed to take you through the truth of Scripture to better understand the power of the tongue.

Available online where Christian books are sold.

Watch your Mouth

Sermon Notes
by Dr. Tony Evans

lives, and suddenly, circumstances change; the Holy Spirit will guide us to a new path, a new strategy, a new job, a new ministry, etc. He calls an audible in our lives, and as long as we are on the same team, we will make the last minute adjustments because we know that the Holy Spirit knows the Rule Book better than we do. In short, we trust the leading of the Spirit, even if the change He is making seems peculiar. Every player on the field needs to know the Rule Book, and as long as the quarterback calls an audible that is consistent with those rules, every player should follow his adjustment. The correlation here is that the Holy Spirit contextualizes the Word of God dynamically to our ever-changing lives, which requires flexibility and trust on our part.

THE ENGINE DRIVES THE CAR: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is like putting an engine in a car. The car is a body, but without the engine you're not going anywhere. It's the engine that lets the body of the car travel. It's the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer that allows you to move in concert with the will of God. But imagine if we go to your car after church service is over, and we choose to sit in our car, doing nothing, waiting to go somewhere. In short, we will stay right where we're at, not because we don't have a motor, but because the motor has not been engaged. If we do not engage the Holy Spirit, we lie dormant in our speech or give the wrong speech because we are not being led by the Spirit. How then do we get the car moving? We're thinking, "My tongue is moving, but I'm still going nowhere." Perhaps, because all that tongue does is argue, cuss, insult, show anger, put people down, gossip and slander, all contrary to the way of the Spirit. The result of all this is that it sounds as though the engine is trying to turn over but to no avail because it's just us sitting in the driver's seat making silly engine noises. In short, we all have the keys to the car, but until we slide that key into the ignition and turn it, the body of that car will go nowhere. The correlation here is that the quality of our speech is determined by our willingness to be led by the Spirit who wants to write our daily dialogue.

THE COMPLAINING MONK: One day, a man walked into a monastery to become a monk. The unique aspect of this particular monastery was that every monk in it was allowed to say only two words once a year, spoken directly

to the head monk. They accepted him, and after his first year, he walked into the office of the head monk and said his two words which were, "BED HARD." After the second year, this same monk walked into the head monk's office and spoke his two words for the year which were, "FOOD BAD." He came to the end of his third year, and he walked into the head monk's office to say his two words which were "I QUIT." The head monk paused for a moment, before looking this monk in the eye and said, "Well, I'm not surprised, after all the complaining you've done for the past three years!" The correlation here is that God's will—the mission of the Holy Spirit—goes unfulfilled in our lives when we choose to let our mouths speak opposite of that will desires. The monk spoke opposite of what His will desires. The monk spoke the opposite of what the head monk desired, and after a time, the two parted company.

SERMON LINES:

This message help you evaluate what is shaping and forming the words you speak.

This message will inform you that the God who calls you to speak truth to others will give you the words to speak when the time comes.

This message will encourage you with the knowledge that the Holy Spirit who dwells in you will guide your speech.

This message will teach you the value of submitting your mouth to the Spirit who wants to govern your gums.

QUOTES BY DR. EVANS:

"God knew that the tongue was so dangerous; He put it behind bars called teeth and put it in a cage called your mouth!"

"Since God made it and He wants you to use it, He will be in it when it's time to say it."

"God created words to create purpose."

"It's the job of the Holy Spirit to localize what you're receiving in church nationally."

"The Holy Spirit wants to audibilize your communication, but unless you are in contact with Him, you won't hear Him."

"God wants to be your speech writer, and He wants the privilege to edit in motion."



Watch Your Mouth Growth and Study Guide

Tony Evans' newest Bible study designed to take you through the truth of Scripture to better understand the power of the tongue.

Available online where Christian books are sold.