

# Watch your Mouth

Sermon Notes  
by Dr. Tony Evans

## MESSAGE 5:

# VICTORY IN YOUR VOICE

### **SUGGESTED PASSAGE:** 2 Chronicles 20:1-25 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. <sup>2</sup> Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)." <sup>3</sup> Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. <sup>4</sup> So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord. <sup>5</sup> Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, <sup>6</sup> and he said, "O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You." <sup>7</sup> "Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?" <sup>8</sup> "They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, <sup>9</sup> 'Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.'" <sup>10</sup> "Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), <sup>11</sup> see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. <sup>12</sup> "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You." <sup>13</sup> All Judah was standing before the Lord, with their infants, their wives and their children. <sup>14</sup> Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; <sup>15</sup> and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. <sup>16</sup> 'Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will

find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you." <sup>18</sup> Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. <sup>19</sup> The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel, with a very loud voice. <sup>20</sup> They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed." <sup>21</sup> When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." <sup>22</sup> When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. <sup>23</sup> For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying them completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. <sup>24</sup> When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they were corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped. <sup>25</sup> When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, including goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much.

### **MESSAGE GOAL:**

The goal of this sermon on "Victory in Your Voice" is to free those who feel shackled by the problems they face by encouraging them to surrender their battles to God, who compensates for our weakness with divine strength throughout our many struggles.



## 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

## INTRODUCTION:

We all face trials in our lives. Some of them we triumph over easily. Others require a little more work on our part. A few of them along the way overwhelm us. We buckle under the pressures of financial difficulty, marital conflict, habitual sin, and physical maladies. In those moments, how we handle such trials has a lot to do with our own closeness to God. He has given each of us a measure of faith to believe that every personal battle we face can be overcome through His mighty power.

God turns such moments into so much more than a quick fix for us. Ultimately, God wants us to pursue Him, to surrender to Him, and to offer genuine praise to Him in gratitude of His great love. So, at different times, he allows each one of us to face impossible situations for the express purpose of doing nothing other than standing firm in our measure of faith and declaring that the battle belongs to the Lord.

To dig deeper, 2 Chronicles 20:1-25 (above) makes an argument for the power of genuine praise in commissioning the Lord to fight our battles. The people worshiped Him (v. 18) and then praised Him (v. 19), and only after the praise of the people did the Lord save them from their enemies. The point here is that there is victory in the believer's voice of praise, which excites God to rescue us from the impossible situations we face in our lives.

## SERMON POINTS:

**1. SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS INTO OUR LIVES IN ORDER TO MOVE US TO A PLACE OF SURRENDER.**

- We all have experienced difficulties or problems in our lives that have crippled us because we can't see the solutions to those problems.
- God allows each of us to be placed in those situations so that we might see the futility of trying to battle through them on our own.
- Sometimes, he desires us to lay aside our own struggle and let Him fight those battles for us so that we might be a people who rely on Him.

**2. THE PROBLEM led TO PRAYER WHICH brought TO PROPHETIC HOPE.**

- 2 Chronicles 20:3 tells us that when Jehoshaphat became afraid, he "turned his attention to the Lord" and prayed.
- His earnest prayer led to a word from the Lord via the Holy Spirit who spoke it to Jahaziel, who in turn spoke encouragement to the people as a prophet.
- The word from the Lord was both consistent with all that God had promised His children and relevant to Jehoshaphat's people in their specific circumstance.

**3. SOME BATTLES ARE NOT FOR US TO FIGHT, BUT RATHER WE ARE TO STAND FIRM AND LET THE LORD FIGHT THAT BATTLE FOR US.**

- Some of our personal battles require us to fight through and triumph with God's strength, while other battles God Himself fights for us.
- When the battle belongs to God alone, we are called to stand firm—confident that He will prevail against the struggle.

**4. PRAISE, WHICH IS THE OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF A WORSHIPFUL HEART, WILL BRING ABOUT THE DELIVERANCE WE SEEK AS HIS CHILDREN.**

- Worship is an attitude of surrender within the heart toward God.
- Praise is an outward expression of gratitude of that worshipful attitude.
- Our praise calls God to action against those very struggles we brought to Him in prayer.

## ILLUSTRATIONS:

*A man who went to his physician because he had a major problem:* The doctor said, "Well, what's wrong?" The man replied, "I hurt all over." The doctor asked, "What do you mean, all over?" The man said, "Every part of my body is in pain." The doctor thought for a moment. "Well, let's delve a little deeper."



## 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

So the doctor told the man to touch his knee, and the man yelped in pain. Then the doctor asked him to touch his ear, and the man screamed in agony. Finally, the doctor asked him to touch his chest, and the man continued to yell. The doctor then told the man, "Your problem is clear. You have a dislocated finger." The correlation here is that some of our problems become so painful, sometimes they overwhelm us and shut us down. We can't see the root of the problem because the problem takes over our whole life.

*I'm asked fairly often why, at 65 years old, I still don't wear glasses:* People say, "You've had no operation or eye adjustment, yet most men your age at least have reading glasses, if not more, so what's your secret?" Well, my situation isn't what you think. My left eye is actually quite fuzzy, and I struggle with it all the time. If I just close my right eye and look out of my left eye, things are not going to be clear at all since that eye is weak. But my right eye is strong. It's pretty close to twenty-twenty—so I can see very clearly through it. My right eye compensates for my left eye. So, because the strong eye is able to compensate for the weak eye, I am still able to function just fine without the need of glasses... for now. The correlation here is that while we may be weak to handle certain problems in our lives, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, the source of all our strength, and the Spirit can compensate where we are inadequate to the challenge. We can overcome impossible problems by relying on His strength in the midst of our weakness.

*There was a lady not too long ago who was living out in the boondocks and, because of her remote location, was living without electricity:* One day, the electric company for that region finally ran the requisite cables into the area that allowed for this woman to have electricity in her home for the first time. Keep in mind that she had been living all of her life without electricity. Months later, they discovered that a

very small number of units of electricity had been used by this woman, and they puzzled as to what the problem might be. She had electricity, but maybe something was wrong and it was not registering the amount of usage that was actually taking place. So they sent a representative to her house, and he knocked on her door and said, "Ma'am, we noticed that you have not been using virtually any electricity, and we wondered if there was a problem."

"Well, I happen to use electricity every day. No problems here. I turn it on long enough to light the room so I can light my kerosene lamp, then I turn it off!" The correlation here is that while we have the power of Almighty God to see us through our problems, many of us ignore that power and continue to try and solve our problems in our own strength.

*Once there was a man who wanted to train his horse how to stop and go based on verbal commands:* Being a religious man, he thought it would be good to get the horse to stop every time he said, "Hallelujah," and to go every time he said, "Praise the Lord!" The horse learned these commands well, but after many months, the man had stopped using the commands, resorting to simply using the reins every time he rode. In this passage of time, he himself managed to forget the very commands he taught his horse. One day, while riding, he decided to skip using the reins and revert back to his verbal commands and as the horse approached a cliff, the man suddenly realized that he did not remember the command for "stop." He tried every Christian word he could think of: "Amen!" "Jesus saves!" None of this helped, and the horse was nearing the edge of the cliff. But finally as the horse was getting to the precipice, he remembered, "Hallelujah"—right at the edge, and the horse stopped. He wiped his head and said, "Praise the Lord." The correlation here is that we must continually declare the promises that God has given us lest we forget what He has said. The victory over our struggles requires more than just passive knowledge of what He said. It requires us to declare those promises through praise to God.



## 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

## **SERMON LINES:**

This message will encourage you by showing you that your pain and your problems are no match for God.

This message will give you peace with the knowledge that the Lord has your back, and the battle is His.

This message will teach you about the power that exists in the praise that flows from a worshipful heart.

This message will transform you from a "do it myself" person into a "follow the Holy Spirit's lead" person.

This message will teach you that there is victory in the declarations of the one who stays close to God.

## **DR. EVANS' QUOTES:**

"You will never discover that God is all you need until God is all you have."

"What He wants you to do today may be different than the strategy He wants you to use tomorrow that may be different than the strategy that you used yesterday."

"A problem led to a prayer that resulted in a prophet that brought about praise."



## **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.