

Subject: Taming the tongue

Hello MK,

I have been thinking this week about how my words affect other people. There is a classic (American) saying that says “sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never harm me.” Whoever came up with that saying could not be more wrong. The fact is that our bones will heal themselves. If you have a broken bone, given enough time – it will heal! In time, the broken bone could be stronger than it was before. However, when words are spoken – we can never take them back!

I am sure that as you read this you can think of specific words that someone has said to you that were NOT very kind. It is not hard for us to think of words that were spoken to us that hurt. My wife and I try to explain it like this. We imagine an apple. Every time a hurtful word is spoken, take a strong straw and poke a hole in the apple. That hole can never be replaced. The more hurtful words that are spoken, the more damaged the apple is.

Let me ask you this question today – How careful are you with the words you speak? One of my favorite verses is James 1:26, “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.” James likens the tongue to the rudder of the ship. Such a small part can steer the entire ship! Your tongue is powerful. Let me challenge you to use your most powerful muscle to build people up rather than tear people down.

I am headed to Chiang Mai Thailand on Monday! I’m looking forward to seeing all the Asia Pacific MKs. I would like to ask all MKs that receive this email to please be in prayer for the retreat. Pray that God will move powerfully. Also, be in prayer about the upcoming CS/PFO and SOM.

We love you,

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