

**Intro:**

WLC 145: “speaking the truth unseasonably ... misconstructing intentions, words, and actions ...”

Main Point of Text: How much a person speaks may reveal their level of wisdom.

Sermon Point: *Choose your words wisely.*

**Move 1: Choose to speak only truth, and nothing but the truth.**

LC: “speaking untruth, lying”: intent to deceive. Isaiah 59:12-13. Col. 3:9: *Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

**Move 2: Choose to speak life into others and not use cutting words.**

LC: “maliciously to a wrong end”: truth used to hurt rather than help. Intentional injury. 2 Kings 2:23-24. As Elisha, Paul’s appearance was mocked so that they could ignore his message: 2 Cor. 10:10. LC: “slandering, backbiting, detracting” (disparage to take from his reputation/influence). Ps. 15:1-3: *LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that ... speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor ...*”

**Move 3: Choose not to confuse with what you say.**

Intentionally deceive by intentionally misleading with words or hearsay:

LC: “or perverting it to a wrong meaning”: Ps 56:5: Every day they wrest my words ...”

LC: “or in doubtful and equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of truth or justice”: Jn 2:19 w/ Mt. 26:60-61.

LC: “misconstructing intentions, words, and actions”: Neh. 6:1-8: accuse intent to rebel w/ rebuilding.

LC: “tale bearing” (gossip), whispering”. Don’t be like the world: Rom 1:29-32.

**Move 4: Choose the right time and place to say what needs to be said.**

There are often inappropriate times to speak/act certain ways, especially jesting:

LC: “scoffing” (mocking), reviling” (name calling): Gen 21:9 w/ Gal. 4:29. 1 Cor. 6:10.

LC: “rash, harsh, and partial censoring”: J.G. Vos: “censuring” finding fault with or passing judgment:

- “rash”: “when it is not our duty to do so”;
- “harsh”: “when going beyond what the evidence warrants, or ‘jumping to conclusions’”;
- “partial”: “unfairly or showing partiality, by being prejudiced in favor of, or against, some person”.
- Romans 2:1.

LC: “speaking the truth unseasonably”. Prov 29:11. Antithetical parallelism:

- The fool: talks too much. Heb., “All his spirit brings out a fool (stupid fellow)”. Faucet keeps running.
- The wise: holds on to his words. Heb., “but wise in his back part stills (hushes) it.” Holds tongue.

**Conclusion:**

Apply Luke 14:8-11 to speaking. *Choose your words wisely.*