3-30-14
O Be Careful with the Little Things

The Little Things Part IV

Scripture Reading – Psalm 141:3

“Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Whatever has your attention has you. I have not done a peg count but knowing what was going to preach on I have been sensitive to the places and people. I have heard people using words they don’t need to say and have raised an eyebrow or two at what people say they are looking at, whether movies, books or magazines. Things that don’t help their Christian walk.

Some people go to an ENT Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist when they have need. God is a EEM specialist, Ears, Eyes, and Mouth specialist. Then again that song we just sang goes on and on with more verses. Oh be careful little heart who you trust… Oh be careful little feet where you go… Oh be careful little mind what you think… Oh be careful little hands what you touch… (see what I mean)

That means God, the Great Physician, wants to transform every part of our body.

The Little Things. This little pipe (show pipe) burst in our church office and this little crack created a big problem. Little things cause Big damage. God was speaking to me in a spiritual way that if we take care of the little things then we can avoid big problems.

Has your mouth ever gotten you in trouble? Have your ears ever heard something you wished you hadn’t heard? Have your eyes seen things you wished you hadn’t seen?

That song we sang is a children’s song. It was written by someone who wanted to help little children realize that their little ears, eyes and mouth need to be trained to be godly. If they train them as a little child then when they grow up to be a big child then they won’t have big problems.

Anyone wish they could go back in time and make some changes?

The mouth is little compared to the whole body…the ears are little and eyes, little, compared to the our whole body. God is speaking to us today to be careful with the little things.

See no evil, Hear no evil, speak no evil. How many of you have said that when you saw three people clustered together? We laugh, and it is funny, but it is no laughing matter if you are engaging any of these three evils.

The mouth is spoken of more in the Bible than the ears or eyes so as I speak of the mouth consider the same application could apply to the ears and eyes as well. Open your Bibles, keep it open, and be prepared to go to various places. Let us start with what we already read out loud together.

Psalm141:3 “Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Set a guard over my ears. Set a guard over my eyes. Set a guard over my mouth.

How many of you would stay out of big trouble if you hired a guard to guard your mouth? Literally? A
BODY GUARD.

Like soldiers that keep watch over different strategic places, you station a guard over your mouth, ears and eyes.

How many of you if going on a trip ask God to place a “hedge of protection” over the plane, train, or automobile? That is what this “watch” is – the word means “hedge of protection”.

Acting as a guard it will protect, attend to, and watch over it.

Now a guard can only let you know of imminent danger. It is still up to you to act accordingly. But at least you have been warned. Wouldn’t that be great if like a radar detector that alerts you to upcoming police radar, God would alert you each time He sensed your mouth was about to say something that will only get you in trouble? Or your eyes would see something or ears hear something.

The Psalmist says, “Watch over the door of my lips.”

Like a literal door the mouth can swing open and shut. It is like a lid which is why many of you say, “put a lid on it.” Some of us have such a hard time saying anything that doesn’t get you in trouble that people tell you, “put a lock on it.”

Chuck Swindoll, Christian radio teacher and author, describes the lips as the opening. He goes on to say be careful of the tongue – it can get slippery when wet. Custodians put out CAUTION signs when an area is mopped because they know that the little water could create a big problem for someone. It is a warning but you must still heed the warning. Our tongue is the same. It gets slippery when wet and says things it shouldn’t. If you have ever had cotton mouth you know how difficult it is to speak. A wet mouth has no difficulty.

Chuck Swindoll also goes on to describe how dangerous the tongue is by describing how God has already set a guard over it, the teeth. That is why sometimes we say, “bite your tongue” when we overhear someone using words they shouldn’t. Most Bibles have what is called a Concordance, a resource to help show you everywhere a particular word appears in the Bible. If yours has a Concordance I suggest a self study this week on the word, mouth.

This past week I was in a meeting with a leader in our Flint area. In the midst of the meeting two different times the D word (I think you can figure it out without me saying it) was spoken by this person. I asked God in my mind for an opportunity to speak to this. Our conversation turned to baptism, the identity we take on as a follower of Jesus, and the promised work of God in our lives. God washes away our sin and works in us to grow us to be sensitive to our sin because day by day, moment by moment, we want to reflect Jesus. 1 Peter 2:22 “He (referring to Jesus) committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” Therefore if we are to reflect Jesus should our mouth lead the way? The person said he sometimes swears because he wants to fit in. Let me encourage you church. We will not fit in. We aren’t suppose to fit in. We are to be different, light in a dark world. Salt which flavors the world not being the same flavor as the world.

Psalm 17:3, “Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me, you will find that I have... ____ what? What would God find. Would he find your mouth to be like the words in Psalm 71:8, “My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.” Or would it be
something else?

Lent Challenge

Job 31:1 – “I have made a covenant with my eyes not to look (lustfully at a girl).” Job filled in the blank but what is God revealing to you right now about what your eyes must look away from? As parents Ellen and I wanted to teach our boys about their eyes. They were accustomed to turning their heads during many commercials. We shared openly with their sister Christine about the visual challenges of teenage boys. Sports magazines had great articles but terrible pictures. It was her task to cut out anything she thought was offensive. The boys needed to love their sister and thank God for the protection she gave them. She had to love her brothers enough to help them in this way. They are older now and must make these decisions for themselves but we trained them properly.

Matthew 6:22 says, “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.”

Pertaining to the mouth, Psalm 17:3 says, “I have resolved with my mouth not to sin.” It is the season of Lent. Do you have some words you need to give up? If you discover a big difference in your life by giving them up for Lent, can I suggest giving them up forever!?

When it comes to the ear there is little in the Bible but it does say, “whoever has ears let him hear, so turn to your neighbor and ask, “Have you heard a word of this?”

Oh be careful little mouth, little ears, little eyes. Be careful with the little things.