

## **Shepherds Guide for Week of July 5, 2009**

### **Words and Community Pt.2**

#### **Day 1:**

**Read Ephesians 4:29-30. Spend some time reviewing how you used your words this last week. Were you more mindful of them? Did you make sure not to speak in a rotten manner? Ever?**

**Spend some time in prayer. If you were able to be a better steward of your words, thank God for giving you the grace to do so. If there was no change in the words that came out of your mouth, pray that God would help you to repent and follow Him obediently.**

#### **Day 2:**

**Read Ephesians 4:11-16. God's plan for His church is strength, maturity, steadfastness, and a people who are constantly building each other up with their words. And this has everything to do with Jesus! We must not be ashamed to share the good news about Jesus! Take some time to let everyone in the family share a few things about Jesus that has changed their lives. As you share with everyone, know that when you share truths about Jesus, it will build up and encourage those who hear your words.**

**Spend some time in prayer thanking God for Jesus, thanking God for the ability to speak words in the way that He tells us to, and thanking God for your salvation.**

#### **Day 3:**

**"As fits the occasion..." All of us find ourselves in many different occasions every day. And every one of those occasions has to do with OTHER PEOPLE. And you will only build them up in as much as you can help them to see what Jesus has to do with their situation.**

**Read Isaiah 50:4. What does it mean to be teachable? How does one go about getting a tongue that is taught? What does God every morning and how does it help us to sustain a weary brother or sister?**

**Spend some time in prayer thanking God for changing our hearts, our minds, and our tongues, so that we might build each other up with our words. Acknowledge that if not for Jesus, your tongue would remain a restless evil full of deadly poison. Also take some time to confess your sins to God...those times where your words were rotten...where you said something that you should not have said.**

#### **Day 4:**

**Read Ephesians 4:29-30 "that it may give GRACE to those who hear..." How amazing is it that with a word fitly spoken, as the occasion calls for, you can actually give grace...that with your words you can have a divine influence upon someone else's heart? Do you view your words as a treasure by which you should be a good steward? Discuss some ways that we can be better stewards of so great a treasure. Now spend time identifying evidences of grace in each other's life. Tell your family and friends how you see God working in their lives.**

**Spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to humble your heart so that you might do a better job of building up your brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask God to help you be a better listener. Thank God again for His abundant goodness...**