

# No Dark Clouds - Personal Application Lesson

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**PA#5**

**What You Say Matters**

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*Suddenly, Jesus speaks. “Father, forgive them. They do not know what they do.” Caleb, struggling to breathe on his own cross, turns when he hears this and looks at Jesus. Momentarily, the soldiers at the rock stop and briefly look, then go back to their game. Bystanders mock Jesus for saying this.*

*Holding his hands upward toward heaven, Levi said, “If He saved others then why doesn’t He save Himself and come down off the cross!” “Ha! You who were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days; save yourself and come down,” Ezra adds. Sarcastically, Reuben comments, “Yes! Come down so that we may see that You are the Christ – and then we will believe in You!”*

*Many in the crowd (and some of the soldiers) sneer at these comments and make fun of Jesus. The criminal on Jesus’ left turns towards the Lord and mentions, “If You are really from God, then save Yourself and us as well.”*

*Upon hearing this, Caleb quickly responds earnestly to the other criminal. “Even now you have no dignity! We deserve our penalty, but this Man has done nothing worthy of death.” Caleb looks at Jesus and says, “Jesus – remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”*

*Jesus, who was looking down to the ground, looks toward Caleb and says, “You will be in paradise this day with Me.” No Dark Clouds A Tale of the Christ, Chapter 15*

When the crowd mocked Jesus and the soldiers sneered, their words revealed what was happening inside their hearts. What do you think Caleb’s words - “*We deserve our penalty, but this Man has done nothing worthy of death*”- show about the change happening inside him?

Jesus’ words, “*Father, forgive them,*” were spoken in the middle of pain and injustice. How does His response challenge the way you think about your own words when you’re hurt, angry, or misunderstood?

There are moments when a person sits alone after a hard conversation and wonders, “*Why did I say that? Why do my words seem to cut when I never meant them to?*” It can feel confusing and discouraging when speech becomes a source of regret. Words seem so small when they leave our mouths, yet they can land with surprising force. A joke meant to be funny, a comment said too quickly, a burst of anger, a careless exaggeration, or even silence at the wrong moment—any of these can leave someone wounded.

Many people carry the quiet fear that something is wrong with them because their words don’t come out the way they wish they would. They look at others who seem calm, wise, or gentle and wonder why their own speech feels so unpredictable. But Scripture understands this struggle. James describes the tongue as tiny but powerful, capable of setting a whole forest ablaze. It’s a startling image, yet it rings true. A single sentence can change the atmosphere of a room, shift a relationship, or echo in someone’s heart long after the moment has passed.

What’s comforting is that harmful speech was never part of God’s original design. In the beginning, words were meant to bless, to name, to create connection. It wasn’t until the fall—when deceit and pride entered the human heart—that words began to twist and wound. Even now, believers still feel the pull of those old patterns. It doesn’t mean God has stepped away. It simply means we are still being shaped, still learning how to speak from a heart being renewed.

And there is hope woven into the story. Scripture points toward a future where every word will be whole and clean again. Revelation describes a world where sorrow and brokenness fade, and our speech reflects only truth, praise, and love. Imagine a life where no one fears being misunderstood, where no one braces for a harsh comment, where every conversation feels safe. That day is coming, and it reminds us that our struggle with words is temporary.

Until then, God has not left us to wrestle alone. The Holy Spirit works quietly and faithfully within us, softening sharp edges, calming reactions, and teaching us to pause before we speak. Over time, our words begin to sound different—not perfect, but more patient, more thoughtful, more like the heart of Christ.

Harmful speech rarely comes from nowhere. It often rises from impatience, insecurity, or the need to be right. Sometimes it grows out of old wounds or unhealed anger. Sometimes it’s simply the result of living in a culture where sarcasm and criticism are treated as normal. And sometimes it’s triggered by the words of others, catching us off guard before we have time to think.

Even so, Christ keeps redeeming what sin has damaged. He doesn’t just forgive the words we regret—He gently works on the places inside us that produced them. He teaches us a new way to speak, one shaped by grace rather than impulse. And little by little, our words begin to carry healing instead of harm.

### **Scripture Nuggets**

“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”  
*Ephesians 4:29*

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.” *Proverbs 15:1*

“The tongue of the wise brings healing... There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.” *Proverbs 12:18*

“Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” *Colossians 4:6*

“Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.” *Proverbs 21:23*

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”  
*Proverbs 18:21*

“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.” *Psalms 141:3*

“The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.” *Proverbs 15:28*

### **Reflection Questions**

1. When you feel tempted to speak harshly, gossip, or stay silent out of fear, which Scripture Nugget speaks most clearly to you, and why?

2. If someone asked you, “Why do I keep failing at this? Does God give up on people who can’t control their tongue? Am I beyond help?” how would you respond?

### **Christ Redeems Our Words**

When Jesus went to the cross, He carried the weight of every sinful word ever spoken—every lie, every insult, every careless remark. Through His sacrifice, He opened the way for our speech to be redeemed and renewed. God, through Christ and the indwelling Spirit, empowers us to speak words that bring life instead of harm.

“But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison... With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men... My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.” *James 3:8–10*

“And the tongue is a fire... But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.” *James 3:6, 17*

### **Discussion Questions**

When you think back on moments where your words caused hurt, what was happening inside you at the time—fear, frustration, insecurity, pressure—and how might understanding that help you grow?

What kinds of words from others have shaped you the most, either positively or negatively, and how does that influence the way you want to speak to people now?