



DAY 1 PROVERBS 15:1-2, 4

1

“You’ll never amount to anything.” Have you ever heard those words? When a parent, teacher, spouse or friend flippantly fires that bullet, it may take years to recover from the wounding. A lie about your destiny plays in your mind although the words may have only been spoken once. What if we heard positive words instead? Consider this quote by the late president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela: “It always seems impossible until it’s done.” Nelson Mandela languished in jail for 27 years because he wanted to overthrow apartheid and establish justice for black South Africans. Once out of jail, he helped establish a government that reconciled blacks and whites. In the midst of impossible odds, he used words that created hope for a nation. Words carry power. They can destroy or they can build. Let’s choose words that bring life.

DAY 2 MATTHEW 12:33-36

2

In Greek mythology Pandora was a woman who unwittingly opened a box, only to release a host of evils into the world. Once the lid was off, nothing could bring the demons back into the container. Our hearts are like a box. No one can see what we hide inside. If we conceal anger, bitterness and resentment within us, someone will eventually trigger those emotions. The top will come off and negative words will fill the air. Once we’ve spoken hurtful words, nothing can put them back. When Pandora opened the box one thing was left in the bottom. Hope. When we put our hope in Jesus and fill our hearts with godly thoughts, our words will reflect the hope that is in us and give life to others.

DAY 3 GENESIS 3:1-6

3

Has a crafty sales pitch ever sucked you in? When I was a kid I answered a comic book ad that promised to send me life-like dinosaur toys. When my purchase arrived in the mail it turned out to be several cheap balloons printed with tyrannosaurus pictures. Was I disappointed! I felt cheated because what was promised wasn’t delivered. A nickel’s worth of truth came wrapped up in a lie. The devil is a sly salesman. Adam and Eve bought defective goods when they chose to eat from the knowledge of good and evil, despite God’s warning. Enticing words can quickly turn us from the kingdom of God to the realm of darkness. Thankfully, when we make wrong decisions based on deceitful words, Jesus can deliver us. We can trade bad news for the good news of the Gospel.

DAY PHILIPPIANS 2:14-18

4

When slavery was legal in our country black people risked their lives, fled from plantations, and followed the North Star to find freedom. They plotted their escape without benefit of maps or compasses simply by following the star. Did you know that you can be a star shining in someone's darkness? You don't have to be a Bible school student, or prepare a well-researched sermon to reach those around you. You simply have to share about your walk with Jesus and give people words that refresh and give hope. When we follow Jesus and His ways, the light in us can point to a path out of sin for those who have lost their way.

DAY NUMBERS 14:1-4

5

Complaining can sabotage a person's destiny. That was a lesson the Israelites failed to learn in the desert. After spying out the territory, Joshua and Caleb expounded on the goodness of the Promised Land. Ten spies protested they could never conquer the terrible giants who lived there. Their words spread like wildfire. Forty years later only Joshua and Caleb crossed into what God had promised. It's easy to look at the negative. It takes faith to envision the positive in a difficult situation. During the American Revolution desertion rates were high. Soldiers were poorly trained and poorly paid. Disease was rampant. Many predicted an easy win for the well-disciplined, well-fed British troops, but too many patriots were staking their claim on a new destiny for a new nation. They quit complaining about the giants in the land and started fighting for a promise. What giants can you defeat today?

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