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NEXT STEPS

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CAN I
SPEAK TO THE
MANAGER

CHRIS STANDRIDGE – COMMUNITIES PASTOR

JULY 18, 2021

Can I Speak with the Manager: #\$\$@&%*! (Words)
Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 12:33–37; Colossians 4:6

1. Corruption is not an option. _____ if you can't _____.
2. Situations don't cause _____; they expose _____.
3. The motivation for everything we say should be _____.
4. Your words have _____ and _____ consequences.



deeper study

Open:

Has there ever been a time when you said something in the heat of the moment and as soon as it left your lips you wished you could unsay it or take it back? Share your story.

Read:

Ephesians 4:29; Matthew 12:33–37; Colossians 4:6

Discuss:

1. Has anyone ever said something to you that gave you the courage to take a risk or chase a dream? How did their words carry you along as you pursued that endeavor? Have you ever done this for someone else?
2. Explain a situation where you were affected by words of destruction that caused you to kill a dream or hate something about yourself? does it affect you today? Did you overcome it? How?
3. Ephesians 4:31, Paul tells us there is no place for corrupt talk in the life of a believer. Bitterness, anger, wrath, slander, clamor and malice all destroy. He compares this kind of talk to the smell of rotten fruit or dead fish. Of these six types of corrupting talk, which do you struggle with the most? Why? Can you explain how this talk is a foul odor to God and others?
4. Matthew 12:34 says “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” For many, the overflow of our hearts are naturally words of corruption. What steps can you take to allow God to change your heart so that the overflow is words of life? What is one step you will take this week?
5. We are often more concerned with being right than we are righteous in our conversations and arguments. What would it look like if you stopped in the heat of battle and asked, “What does love/grace require of me?” How do you think it might change your attitude, the other person, and the outcome of your conversation?
6. Have you ever dealt with a child or a loved one who went through a season of rebellion or played the prodigal? How did it grieve you? How do you think it grieves the Holy Spirit when our words don't reflect the character of Christ in us?

Pray:

Take time to thank God for trusting us with the responsibility of managing our words and giving grace through them. Pray that God would bring to light the darkness that is in your heart that manifests itself through corrupt talk. Ask God to give you a renewed heart and the mind of Christ to give grace to the hearer every time you speak. Pray that God would make you aware of when that old self and corrupt talk wants to creep in so you can fight it off.

Memorize/Meditate:

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29