

# THE DANGER OF MIXED MESSAGES

## PROVERBS 31:1-9

Text:

Introduction:

In these words we notice a mother's influence in the education of her son. A woman is never more nobly occupied than in warning her son against the seductions of pleasure and in giving him a high sense of that which is right and an understanding of that which is wrong.

### **Proverbs 31:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings. <sup>4</sup> *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: <sup>5</sup> Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. <sup>6</sup> Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. <sup>7</sup> Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. <sup>8</sup> Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. <sup>9</sup> Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Notice that though some of this advice was sound while some of it was foolish.

Sandwiched between the solid is the soiled.

- It is good to remain pure and we should be teaching our children to remain pure.
- It is good not to consume that which God says is cursed and is a mocker.
- It is good to speak up for those who can't speak up for themselves.
- It is good to be fair with everyone.
- It is good to help the poor and needy.
- However it is not good to contradict what God says not to do.

**Habakkuk 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to *him*, and maketh *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

**Proverbs 20:1**

<sup>1</sup> Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Today we often hear mixed messages, and those messages are dangerous.

I want to share some thoughts and show some examples from God's word of the danger of mixed messages and how they are offensive to God.

Note in Matthew 15:

**Matthew 15:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, <sup>8</sup> This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. <sup>9</sup> But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

The Lord spoke here of people who said one thing but did something else.

He said in vain they worship me. It is interesting to me that he was speaking of individuals who were involved in worshipping God.

The Lord referred back to Isaiah.

Note Isaiah 29.

**Isaiah 29:9-16**

<sup>9</sup> Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. <sup>10</sup> For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. <sup>11</sup> And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it *is* sealed: <sup>12</sup> And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. <sup>13</sup> Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: <sup>14</sup> Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this

people, *even* a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hid. <sup>15</sup> Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us? <sup>16</sup> Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

Notice:

## 1. THE REALITY OF MIXED MESSAGES

### **Isaiah 29:15**

<sup>15</sup> Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?

This was written to God's people.

### **Matthew 15:8**

<sup>8</sup> This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

The Lord expressed the folly of saying one thing but acting differently.

### **Luke 6:46**

<sup>46</sup> And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

It is possible to give mixed messages.

Not only do we see the reality of Mixed Messages but also:

## **2. THE REASON FOR MIXED MESSAGES**

It is very clear and simply stated why – note:

### **Matthew 15:8**

<sup>8</sup>This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

“Their Heart is Far From Me”

The Bible teaches that what is in the heart determines what a man is.

### **Proverbs 4:23**

<sup>23</sup>Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

### **Deuteronomy 6:5**

<sup>5</sup>And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

### **Romans 10:10**

<sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Simple put the issue is a heart issue.

Example:

Notice one example from God's word of a man who had heart issues.

As a matter of fact that man was used by God to pen much of the book of Proverbs and was known for his wisdom.

Read 1 King 11:1-13

Note:

- Solomon had a divided heart (vs. 4-5)

### **1 Kings 11:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father. <sup>5</sup>For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

- Solomon had a drifting heart – turned (vs. 4-5)
- Solomon had a distant heart (vs. 4)
- Solomon had a disobedient heart (vs. 7-10)

### **1 Kings 11:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that *is* before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. <sup>8</sup>And

likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, <sup>10</sup> And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

Note not only the Reality of Mixed Messages and the Reason for Mixed Messages, but also:

### **3. THE RESULTS OF MIXED MESSAGES**

#### **Matthew 15:9**

<sup>9</sup> But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

Those who give mixed messages worship in vain.

There is confusion and unpreparedness.

#### **1 Corinthians 14:8**

<sup>8</sup> For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

What are some indications of vain worship?

- Pre-occupation with problems

Often people sing hymns and pray while their thoughts are elsewhere and our words are merely mechanical.

- Disobedience to God

### **Ezekiel 33:30-33**

<sup>30</sup> Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD. <sup>31</sup> And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee *as* my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, *but* their heart goeth after their covetousness. <sup>32</sup> And, lo, thou *art* unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. <sup>33</sup> And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

### **Luke 6:46**

<sup>46</sup> And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

- False teaching is present

### **Mark 7:7**

<sup>7</sup> Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

### **Matthew 15:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. <sup>9</sup> But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.



Close:

I want to close with just a few practical principles that we need to remember and practice.

Remember good people can give bad advice.

We MUST sift all advice through God's Word

We must remember that compassion should never contradict Truth.