TITLE: CONTIMPLATING SOUND

TEXT: Mt. 12:35-37; Eccl. 5:2; Pr. 13:3; James 1:19-27 & 3:2-12

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about sound. Sound is something that can be wonderful and make us feel good or it can be terrible and set even our teeth on edge. But sound, when you take time to stop and really think about it, is really a pretty amazing thing.

I have moderate to severe loss of hearing in the upper frequencies of sound while my lower frequencies of hearing are normal. Most people who have hearing loss are kind of like that. They hear certain frequencies just fine but are limited in others.

The range of my particular type of hearing loss is hard to treat. The older type Hearing aids didn’t do me a lot of good. The first hearing aids pretty much just increased the volume of sound coming into your ear but you still only heard in proportion to your ears ability to handle the sound.

My hearing is somewhat distorted because some frequencies I hear very well and other frequencies I hardly hear at all. The older hearing aids primarily just amplified the sound coming into your ear and for me, most of the time, it just made the distortion louder not any more clear.

Now they have hearing aides that are digital and can be programmed to meet the specific requirements of one’s individual hearing loss. Only amplifying the frequencies that a person has trouble with and not amplifying the frequencies that you hear normally.

But as good as they are, even they, will not make a hard of hearing person hear completely normally..

Anyway, as I was on a walk the other day I noticed a lot of sounds around me. Beautiful sounds.. There were some birds chirping in frequencies that my hearing aids enabled me to hear, and then I heard what sounded like an awl hooting in unison along with them.

It really came to my attention because most of the time I don’t hear birds chirping. Most bird’s chirps are out of my range of hearing, especially when I don’t have my hearing aids in.

Anyway, as I was walking along just listening to and enjoying this symphony of God’s creation I started to contemplate sound and how much of a blessing from God it is…

I did some research on sound and found out some things that really amazed me.

First, what sound actually is…Sound is Molecules that have been put into motion.

When we go to speak our voice box starts vibrations that put molecules in motion and it starts a chain reaction as the molecules find a conduit and move along…..

What conducts sound? (solid, liquid, & gas) Anything that is made up of molecules. Something’s will conduct it better than others…

What is really amazing to me is how fast sound travels.

Its speed depends upon its conductor…

Sound travels at 761 mph in gas-air, 2728 mph in water, 7186 mph in gold)

The denser the matter the faster sound will travel through it.

Sound travels faster through bone than it does through air because bone is of a higher or greater density then air.

Let’s do a little science experiment this morning:

Say the word click.

Did you hear it when you spoke it?

How quickly did you hear it?

You heard it at about 761 mph. The speed sound travels through air.

Now close your mouth and click your teeth together..

Did you hear the click?

How quickly did you hear it?

You probably heard it at about somewhere around 5500 mph.

When you clicked your teeth, you actually heard the sound 4-5 time faster than when you said the word click.

Why? Because sound travels through bone 4-5 times quicker than it travels through air.

Now this is the aspect of sound that really amazed me.

How long does sound last?

Does a sound ever cease?

In theory- No! We just pass on from the time we experienced it.

Sound only exists in time. Sound only exists in the dimension of the time that it happened.

If it were possible for us to go back 10 minutes in time this morning the words that I have spoken would still be there.

Dr. Ellen Covey, assistant research professor in the Department of Neurobiology at Duke University Medical Center says, "*Sounds only exist in time. If we couldn't discriminate between durations, we couldn't understand speech. It would be at least as bad as if we couldn't discriminate between frequencies, or pitch.”*

Words are molecules that have been put into motion and exist in the dimension of time.

Let me illustrate this

Example: Thunder clap. We live 10 miles apart and the clap of thunder happens right over your head --I would hear the same rumble 2.1 seconds after you did.

You heard it and then I heard it 2.1 seconds later.

We did not hear it at the exact same time.

The time of the clap of thunder for you was different from the time of the same clap of thunder for me but the clap of thunder happened in one explicit dimension of time.

It had a point of origin and it traveled from that point of origin into time…

Sound only exists in the dimension of time that we hear it. We don’t hear the same clap of thunder more than once….

Do you understand the implication of all this? I’m not sure I do but I am amazed by it none the less.

Sound is truly amazing. Our ability to hear it is amazing. Our ability to make or produce it is even more amazing.

With all this in mind this morning, what I want to focus upon is one particular kind or type of sound…The sound that we make. The sound of our own voice, our own words…

Do you realize that the words that we speak, each and every one of them, is a creation that we make?

Greek word for create is:

**baw-raw'**

**verb; to *cause* *to* *be* (“gen” -erate),   
that is, (reflexively) to *become* (*come* *into* *being*),**

When we speak a word we create, we cause to be, bring into a being a particular sound.

A sound that will always exist in the dimension of time in which it was created..(repeat)

This understanding of sound I believe brings some clarity to certain Scriptures such as:

**Matt. 24:35 (NIV)  
35Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**

What does this tell us? Jesus said that His words would never pass away?

Why? Because once He spoke them they became creations that he made. Sounds that he brought into existence that would always exist in the dimension of time in which they were spoken.

They were words of such significance and consequence that after he ascended to Heaven, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, He inspired the writers of the Gospels to write them down so that all future generations could hear them and the wonderful message that they contained.

**Matt. 12:36 -37 (NIV)  
36But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned.”**

What does this tell us? Like Jesus, our words also will never pass away. They are creations that we make.

They also will always exist in the dimension of time in which they were spoken.

We live in the dimension of time. That is why we can’t continually hear our words or the words of others after they are spoken.

Now the sobering thought here is that God lives outside of the dimension of time. Everything with God is now. Past present and future are now to God.

We can’t really comprehend this about God because we are creatures who are limited by the dimension of time. But with God time does not exist. Time is not a factor.

What does God living outside the dimension of time imply?

One thing is, God hears every word that we have said in the past, every word that we say today and every word that we will say tomorrow just as if they were just spoken!

Let that sink in a moment… God hears every word that we have said in the past, every word that we say today and every word that we will say tomorrow just as if they were just spoken…

Every word that we have created or will create is always before God…

That is why Christ said by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned…

Because all of our words are creations of sound that we have brought into existence that are always before God…

This is why I believe there is so much admonition in Scripture for us with regards to the words that we speak.,

**Eccl. 5:2 (NIV)  
2Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.**

Solomon, the wisest man to have ever lived, under the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit, says this in…

**Prov. 13:3 (NIV)  
3He who guards his lips guards his life,**

**but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.**

**James 1:19 -27 (NIV)  
19My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.**

**26If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.**

James says this as a heartfelt plea to his hearers….

**19My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak …26If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.**

James follows this teaching up in more detail in…

**James 3:2 -12 (NIV)  
2We all stumble in many ways**.( how many can say amen to that this morning?)

**If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.**

**3When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.**

**5Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.**

**It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**

**7All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

**9With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.**

These are pretty powerful and convicting words..

**2We all stumble in many ways**…. **If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.**

**5Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.**

**It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.**

When D.L. Moody and his family retired for the evening on October 8, 1871, Mr. Moody felt sure his family was a safe distance from a fire that was burning in another part of Chicago.

But in the early morning hours the Moody’s were awakened and warned to flee their home.

Fanned by fierce winds, the great Chicago fire raged throughout the city, devouring everything in its path -- including Moody's home and church.

A fire that had reportedly started in a cow's stall by a small spark leveled an entire city in a matter of hours, leaving 100,000 people homeless, 17,500 buildings destroyed, and over 300 people dead.

Scripture says… **Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.**

Hastily and ill spoken words are a lot like bullets, once they are fired out of our mouth we can’t get them back!Once they hit their target the damage is done! The wounds may heal but there will always be a scar as a reminder of the damage inflicted..

Once we create the sound of a word it will always exist in the particular dimension of time in which it was created.

And even though a harsh or hurtful word may not be literally heard by our ears more than once how many times do they come back loud and clear in the recesses of our mind and when they do they tear open the original wound all over again?

Words are powerful things! They can splinter and destroy relationships, tear apart homes, reap more havoc and destruction then any Tornado or Hurricane or fire can…

Our words can encourage and uplift and sooth and mend and heal and restore…

The potential for the words that we create for good is great and the potential for the words that we create for evil is equally great. The words we will create can build up or they can tear down.

They can become instruments of destruction that can kill, maim and destroy or they can become instruments of life that heal and build and restore.

And God has given each of us the ability to create them, bring them into existence at our will..

What a privilege and yet what a responsibility God has laid upon us.

Jesus said:

**36But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”**

CARELESS

***ar-gos'* ; *inactive*, that is, *unemployed*; (by implication) *lazy*, *useless:*—barren, idle.**

How many of the words that we create on any given day fit this description? Useless, barren, idle---spoken without care?

Words that Scripture says that we will all one day have to give account for…

I shudder when I think that one day I am going to have to stand and give an account to God for every careless word that I have ever spoken. That the words that I have created are still is existence in the dimension of time in which I spoke them, and they are waiting to confront me when I step outside the dimension of time and enter the realm of eternity where God resides.

We all may stop and shudder as we contemplate that…

The only thing that gives me hope and will give me the courage to stand before God on that day is some other words that I have created that are words of acquittal….

Particularly the words…Yes Jesus, I ask you to forgive me my sin and I ask you to come into my heart and be the Lord and Savior of my life…

Do you realize that these are words of acquittal? That when we come before the Lord, sorry and repentant for our sin, ask His forgiveness and allow Him to be the Lord of our life, when we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, come into agreement with God about the Lordship of Jesus Christ for our life, we speak words that will one day acquit us?

And as we go on from that place of making Jesus our Lord, giving Him control of our life, every aspect of our life, giving Him even control of our tongues, giving Him control of the words that we speak, then the words that we create will be words that impart life not death… Words that speak peace not ruin…Words that uplift not tear down… Words that bring acquittal not condemnation…

**7All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**

No man can tame the tongue! Not one of us has the ability, with the fallen and sinful nature that we do, to tame our own tongue. But Jesus can! Jesus is in the tongue taming and life changing business…

But Jesus will only be able to do it if we are willing to surrender even the words that we speak to Him.

God, in His sovereignty, has chosen to partner with us in creation. He has imparted part of His creative nature within us… He has partnered with us in our ability to procreate, bring into existence new life and He has given us the ability to create the words that we speak….

The question that I challenge us with this morning is….

What kind of stewards are we being with that precious gift?

What will be the words that we will find awaiting us when we stand before Him and have to give an account?

Will they be words that will bring acquittal or words that will bring condemnation?

This morning, have you ever spoken the greatest words of acquittal that have ever been spoken? Have you said yes to Jesus?

Coming to that place in your life where you lay everything aside and simply say Yes, Lord! Yes Jesus, come into my heart be the Lord and Savior of my life…

I give myself to you. I give you my weaknesses as well as my strengths, my shortcomings as well as my talents, my hurts as well as my joys…I give you even the words that I create…

Jesus, I invite you to be the Lord of my life.. I give You control of even the words that I speak….

May they be words that lift up, not tear down—words that bring healing- not destruction---may they be words that bring glory to Your name and draw others to You.

Have you given your all to Jesus this morning? Have you given Him control of even the words that you speak?

If we have than we will one day hear some pretty magnificent words from the Lord..

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, NOW ENTER YOUR REWARD.

Are these words you long to one day hear the Lord speak to you?