

Thank you, again...Walter York!
Speaker for today

Be Careful in What You Say! Jesus said...

“For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart... But I tell you that for every [careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
Matthew 12:34, 36-37

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Indio Informer

Vol. 35 No. 25

June 23, 2024

Expectations of Well-Seasoned Words

By Jonathan McAnulty

Jesus had high expectations of His followers. “*You are the salt of the earth,*” Jesus told them, indicating the influence He expected them to have on the world. (cf. Matthew 5:13-14) This phrase, “salt of the earth,” has come to mean a person of great kindness, love and honesty – which is certainly in harmony with how the Lord used it.

Salt has certain well noted characteristics which help us understand why Jesus used it as a metaphor for how His followers were to behave. Firstly, salt enhances food. It adds flavor, texture, and even vital nutrients. Simply put, food with added salt is generally better than food without any salt. Secondly, salt acts as a preservative. It’s one of the oldest and most common methods for preserving food. The salt draws out moisture, while also killing harmful microbes that would spoil the food. Thus, food with salt is less likely to go bad.

When it comes to Christians in the world, Jesus expected His followers to make the world a better place through their speech and their actions. He also expected them to be life-preservers, teaching men the Gospel by which God brings salvation (cf. Romans 1:16). But Jesus also had a warning.

Salt of that era was largely mined. Salt ore, like all ores, was seldom pure, and as salt is water soluble, aged salt, when exposed to moisture would actually start losing the salt, eventually leaving behind nothing but a collection of fine rocks. Such unsalty “salt” was not suitable for food and so it was tossed out on the road where at least the trace elements of remaining salt might still act to kill the grass.

So Jesus said, “*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to*

be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.” (Matthew 5:13; NKJV)

Followers of Christ who fail to be a positive influence on the world around them are of no use to the Lord. As was noted initially, Jesus has high expectations of His followers.

Paul, picking up the same theme, urged the Christians in Colossians, *“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”* (Colossians 4:6; NKJV) In a parallel passion to the Ephesians, he worded it thusly: *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”* (Ephesians 4:29; NKJV)

Our words can be powerful for both good and ill. Christ expects us to use our words so as to be a positive influence in the world. Our speech should use such words as impart grace, words which build up and edify others. They should be words that are well chosen. They should be, in short, words that are “seasoned with salt.”

Again, remember that salt makes things better. It improves that to which it is added. If our words do not act to improve the world around us, then they are not the words Christ wants us to be speaking.

There are many ways in which our words can act as a positive influence on the world. They can be words of joy and encouragement. They can be words of hope and faith. They can be words of love and kindness. They should most certainly be words of truth and purity. (cf. Ephesians 4:25-32, 5:3-4)

Salt also works to remove those things which are harmful. In the same way, Christians are told, concerning their deeds and their words, *“have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”* (Ephesians 5:11) Thus, Jesus urged men to repent, lest they perish (cf. Luke 13:3). Loving, “salted” words are not words which encourage sin, rather they are words which encourage the right choices in life. (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:6). They are words of truth, spoken in love. (cf. Ephesians 4:15)

Followers of Christ should always be choosing our words with care. A well-chosen word is a precious thing of great value (cf. Proverbs 25:11). An improper word reveals a wicked heart. ((cf. Matthew 12:34) For this reason, we should heed James’ advice to be slow to speak. (cf. James 1:19). We should think about what we are going to say, and what effect it will have on others. We should realize that idle words will bring judgment. *cf. Matthew 12:36) But the proper words are life eternal. (cf. John 6:68)

Before We Speak Our Mind

By Mike Riley

The story is told of a preacher who once generalized that all infidels were fools. Furthermore, he stated that he could prove his statement to be true for any given case within ten minutes. A man in the audience stood up and proclaimed himself to be an infidel, but no fool.

The preacher looked him over and said, “So you are an infidel?” The infidel quickly replied, “Yes sir. I deny that there is anything at all in religion.”

The preacher replied, “Nothing at all in religion? Are you willing to go on record as saying that?” The infidel then confidently replied, “Go on record? Why, I’ve been writing and lecturing against religion for twenty years.”

The preacher glanced at his watch and said, “Well, I said I could prove an infidel a fool in ten minutes, and I still have seven minutes left. I’ll leave it to the audience to decide if a man isn’t a fool to write and lecture for twenty years against a thing that supposedly has nothing whatsoever in it!”

The moral of this story: Before we speak our mind, let’s make certain that there’s something in our mind worth speaking. Along this line of thought, the Proverb writer declares, *“He who restrains his lips is wise”* (Proverbs 10:19 NASB; cf. Proverbs 17:27-28; Ecclesiastes 5:1-3; Ecclesiastes 10:13-14; James 1:19; James 3:2). Let’s think about it!