



Salty or Seasoned With Salt?

Have you ever heard anybody's speech/language described as "salty?" You don't hear that expression as much as has been the case in the past. What it usually is referring to is what could also be described as "very colorful language." In other words, we are talking about something that is, at best, questionable and, at worst, vulgar.

In those days when this expression was more common, "salty language" was offensive to most people. To be sure, there were those who thought it was cute, funny, etc., but most people were turned off by both the language and the person using it.

All of this came to mind when I recently thought of Paul's admonition to Christians in Colossians 4:6 --- Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

I believe it is fairly obvious that Paul was not advocating rude, crude, vulgar, offensive, and/or suggestive language. What, then, could he have meant?

The answer may be found in our Lord's dealing with a person we sometimes refer to as the "woman at the well" (cf. John 4:4ff). As you read this account of His earthly ministry, you will notice that He was critical of both her lifestyle and her religion. He made it very clear that He approved of neither.

However, He was able to discuss these matters with her in a way that did not offend her. Instead, He was able to communicate in a way that turned her into one of His "promoters." It could be said that His discussion of "living water" made her thirsty for something she did not have.

Speech that is gracious, seasoned with salt has a way of doing that. Salty language does not! As I interact with people, I need to ask myself whether my speech and my lifestyle create in others a desire to know more about Jesus or if they alienate people. Do I give people hope or do I make them feel hopeless? Do I offer help or do I write people off?

How about you? Is your speech salty or is it seasoned with salt?

The eternal destiny of others --- and yourself --- may depend on your answer.

--Jim Faughn, Paducah, KY

Welcome to West Side Church of Christ. We are thankful for your presence today and are happy that we can provide a safe place for worship of our Lord.

We ask that you please adhere to the guidelines of our governor who advises that we wear masks and distance ourselves from close contact with each other while at services. Communion packets and baskets for the contribution are at the double doors. Thank you for protecting yourself and each other while we are together.

From the Elders

---Men's Class at 6p each Tuesday Evening, "Telling the Story of Jesus" with Mike Gors as teacher.

--East Allen Ladies Day has been re-scheduled for Sept. 25 in New Haven, IN. See flyer

--Goshen Church of Christ Ladies Day has been postponed until 2021. Letter of explanation on board.

--Letter from Cannon Taylor is on the Missions Board.

--"Why should you fill today with sorrow about tomorrow, my heart? God watches all with care most true; doubt not that he will give you, too, your part."

Services

Sunday Bible Study

9:30am

Worship: 10:30 am
& 6:00pm

Wed. Bible Study
7p

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media

Those Whom We Support

MSOP

Cannon Taylor

INDIA

Bible Correspondence
Course/ Bibles

Leaders in Worship

August 16, 2020

Morning Worship

Announcements: Don Allison

Song Leader: Lowell Huffman

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Scripture: Bill Winemiller

Ephesians 2: 8-10

Sermon: Mike Gors,

“Saved by Grace Through Faith”

Lord’s Table: Volker Jaromin

Closing Prayer: Rex Harper

Sound Room: Jacob Clark

*By this is my Father glorified that you bear
much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.
John 15:8*

Weekly Contribution
Goal

\$2440

August 9, 2020

\$1932

Remember Calls and Cards to Our Shut-ins

Joyce Popplewell --
Heritage in Yorktown
Ann Funk--Westminster
Linda Horning-- Westmin-
ster
Carl Gilstrap--Albany
Health Care

Who Will the Lord Find Watching?

“Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He comes will find watch-
ing...” (Luke 12:37). Fanny J. Crosby’s grand hymn is based on the above pas-
sage. Watching is an important spiritual exercise denoting a perpetual state of
vigilance and readiness Matt. 26:41; 1 Cor. 16:13). It also denotes a constant
state of soberness (2 Tim. 4:5); 1 Peter 4:7). The following are some whom the
Lord will not find watching.

1. The slothful. The slothful person spends much time in bed (Pro. 26:14. The
wicked have the “the spirit of slumber” (Romans 11: 8). The lazy and luke-
warm are reminded to watch and repent (Rev. 3: 3-19).
2. The sleeping. The disciples slept while Jesus suffered (Mark 14:14). Paul
admonishes, “Therefore, let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and
be sober (1 Thess. 5:6).
3. The side-tracked. Distractions can destroy us. A distracted pilot can take
hundreds to their death. A distracted driver can lose his own life and cause
others to lose theirs. A diversion is the oldest trick in the world (Gen. 3). It is
still being used by criminals and the devil. Our eyes must be taken off the
world and focused squarely upon the Lord (1 John 2: 15-17; Heb. 12: 1-2).

When Jesus comes will He find you watching?

Edward L. Anderson
Via Findlay church of Christ

Members: A Club or The Body

Ultimately, the growth of the kingdom is God's task. But he accomplishes that task by giving each of his children talents which they are to use to his glory (Matt. 25:15-30; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-20).

Contrary to what most believe, the work of ministry is the responsibility of the whole church. The task of the evangelists, teachers, and shepherds is not to do the work, but to train the members to do the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11-12). This process is to go on until we all attain to spiritual maturity. One can maintain membership in a club simply by paying dues. But one cannot maintain membership in a body on that basis. Our fingers, toes, ears, eyes all of our members must stay connected with our body, or they will soon die.

In scripture, the church is never compared to a club. It is compared to a body. To maintain membership in the church, we must be involved. A disconnected church member is no more a real member of the church than an amputated limb is still part of a human body.

--Thayer Salisbury (Toledo, OH)

Zach Privett, US Army in Middle East.

Devyn Riggs, Cherry Pointe Air Station in NC.

Alex Odle, US Marines, in NC

Larry Greene, National Guard in Middle East

Michelle Bess, Air Force, Deployed to Middle East

In Service to Our Country



Joan Odle--August 20

Lela Proctor--August 23

Pam Smith--August 26

Bethany Allison--August 29

Jane Clark--August 30

Happy Birthday



In Need of Prayer

Adam Huffman, Kidney dialysis 3x's weekly

Alex Odle, Cancer

Angie Reed, MS

Betty Kellow

Bob Owens, Cancer. Kathy's cousin

Dan Proctor, Health issues. Lela's son

Delores Huffman, Cellulitis in leg.

Estes Gregory, Health issues. Critical test pending.

Howard Goodman

Jim "Buck" Bailey, Debbie and Teresa's uncle, hospitalized for blood loss of unknown origin. Lives in TN

Kathy Harper, Cellulitis, respiratory difficulties

Larry Reynolds, Pacemaker installed with upcoming surgery for heart valve replacement

Martha Gilstrap, Broken hip. Hopes to be back to services soon

Melissa and Brian Anderson, Death of newborn

Mitch Kinder, Cancer. Sally's neighbor

Nancy Bateman

Robbie Murphy, Death of aunt and hospitalization of grandmother

Ryan Dobbs, Skylar's cousin, cancer treatment

Sally Anderson, Health issues

Shannon Fitzgerald, Aggressive cancer. Genny's cousin

Susie Long, Degenerative arthritis in back

Wanda Reed, Recovering from chemo and radiation

...The Lord of hosts is His name; great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, giving to everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds. Jeremiah 21:18-19

Being Industrious

An industrious person is attentive and active. An industrious person is committed and conscientious. An industrious person is dedicated and diligent. An industrious person is focused and faithful. An industrious person is hardworking and helpful. An industrious person is studious and steady.

A Christian is an industrious person. Paul exhorted, “not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord: (Romans 12:11). He further exhorted, “But we urge you brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside and that you may lack nothing (1 Thess. 4: 10--12).

Being industrious translates down to two things: heart and effort! Paul exhorted, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord, you will receive the reward of the inheritance ; for you serve the Lord Christ” (Col. 3: 23-24). Solomon exhorted, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.” We serve with all our heart because we are serving Christ. We serve with effort because in this life, only we have that opportunity.

Johannes Sebastian Back, the great German composer and musician said, “ I am obligated to be industrious. Whoever is equally industrious will succeed equally well.” Is that not true of Christians? Are we not obligated to be industrious? Can we as the servants of Christ be less? Solomon wrote, “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings: (Prov. 22: 29).

We just want to stand before “The King”.

Dwight Fuqua
Sparta, TN

I Said Nothing

Robert Benchly once remarked, “Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.” No matter how great your vocabulary may be, sometimes, the right thing to say is nothing.

First, if you cannot speak with purity, the best thing that you can say, no matter how large your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).

Second, if you cannot speak with sweetness, the best thing that you can say, no matter how rich your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

Third, if you cannot speak with grace, the best thing that you can say, no matter how extensive your vocabulary may be, is nothing. Paul wrote, “let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:6).

Fourth, if you cannot speak with self-control, the best thing that you can say, no matter how full your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth” (Colossians 3:8).

Fifth, if you cannot speak with truthfulness, the best thing that you can say, no matter how huge your vocabulary may be, is nothing. We read, “lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds”(Colossians 3:9).

Sixth, if you cannot speak with love, the best thing that you can say, no matter how big your vocabulary may be, is nothing. Paul wrote, “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).

Obviously, I could go on and on. However, I believe that you get my point. Let’s make sure that what we say is what it needs to be. If it isn’t, the best thing that we can do is say nothing.

Wade Webster
Church of Christ