

## More Like Jesus in Word Jn. 12:48

*Thesis: To encourage us to be more like Jesus in word.*

### Introduction:

- A. Controlling our tongue is one of the most difficult things that we must do.
  - 1. **Js. 1:26** - If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.
  - 2. **Js. 3:1-12** is all about controlling our tongue.
  - 3. Because controlling our tongue is so difficult, we must work diligently to control it.
  
- B. We need to turn to the example of Jesus to help us control our tongue.

### I. When Jesus spoke to others, He spoke with love.

#### A. Jesus was full of compassion and mercy when He spoke to others.

- 1. Numerous passages tell us that Jesus had compassion on someone.
- 2. Jesus always spoke with love when He talked with others.
  - a. **Mk. 10:21** (Jesus, in talking with the rich, young ruler) - "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him..."
  - b. Jesus sometimes corrected others (**Jn. 8:1-11** – Jesus speaks with the woman caught in adultery).
  - c. Jesus also sometimes spoke directly and harshly (**Mt. 23** – Jesus says, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites" eight times).
- 3. While He was sometimes direct and corrected others, Christ always spoke with love.
  - a. He never belittled anyone.
  - b. He never mocked anyone behind their back.
  - c. He always spoke out of love.

#### B. Today, when we speak to others, we must do so with love.

- 1. Far too many times we speak evil of one another.
  - a. We forget that we are brethren with the same hope and goal.
  - b. We criticize others because they do not live up to our expectations.
  - c. Sometimes we justify the bad things that we say because it is the truth.
- 2. However, just because it is true does not mean that we should say it.
  - a. If we speak something that is harmful, it is sinful.
  - b. **Eph. 4:29** - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

- c. If it will not edify one another, whether it is true or not, it should not be said.
- d. All of us have been affected by gossip at some point; and because of this, we should know how destructive it is.

## II. When Jesus was persecuted, even killed, He did not respond with angry words.

### A. Even under great persecution, Jesus did not lash out at His enemies.

1. Remember the great persecutions that Jesus faced, especially in the last days of His life.
  - a. He was betrayed by one of His closest friends.
  - b. He was put on trial.
  - c. He was scourged.
  - d. He was eventually crucified.
2. When Jesus faced these trials and persecutions, He did not speak evil of His accusers.
  - a. **Mt. 27:12-14** - And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. {13} Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" {14} And He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.
  - b. **I Pet. 2:22-23** - "Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth"; {23} who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;
  - c. **Is. 53:7** - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

### B. Today, when we are persecuted or mocked, we must control our tongue.

1. It is easy for us to speak evil of our enemies.
  - a. When someone does something bad to us, it is easy for us to speak evil of them.
  - b. We do to others what they have done to us.
2. If we are going to follow the example of Christ, we must not attack others when they persecute us.
  - a. We must remember the example of Jesus.
  - b. **Lk. 6:27-28** - But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, {28} bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

## III. When Jesus spoke on spiritual things, He spoke with authority.

### A. Others were often impressed by the authority with which Jesus spoke.

1. **Mk. 1:21-22** - Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. {22} And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

2. **Mt. 7:28-29** - And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, {29} for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

**B. He spoke with authority because His message was from God.**

1. **Jn. 8:28** (Jesus speaking with the Pharisees) - Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."
2. **Jn. 12:48-50** - He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. {49} For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. {50} And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.
3. **Jn. 14:10** - Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

**C. Today, when we speak to others about spiritual things, we must speak with authority.**

1. We know what God wants us to do.
  - a. We are able to study His word to discover His truths.
  - b. When we know His word, we can speak it with authority because we know that it is His word.
2. We have the word of God.
  - a. **II Tim. 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
  - b. **II Tim. 2:15** - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**Conclusion:**

Understanding the words of Christ are important because it is His word that will judge us eternally (**Jn. 12:48**).

Part of the words of Christ is the command to control our tongue and to use it wisely.

Do we speak to others with love?

Do we lash out when others do something against us?

Do we teach the word of God with authority?