

**Don't Waste Your Breath
My Words Matter! – Part 6
Matthew 27:11-14 (NIV)
CrossWord Christian Church
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¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

Matthew 27:11-14 (NIV)

THE REALITY OF WHAT WE SAY

➤ **What I say...can impact my life**

Be careful what you say and protect your life. A careless talker destroys himself. Proverbs 13:3 (GNT)

➤ **What I say...can impact someone else’s life**

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

➤ **What I say...cannot be controlled without God’s help**

Accept my prayer as incense offered to you...³ Take control of what I say, O LORD, and guard my lips. Psalms 141:2-3 (NLT)

LESSONS FROM JESUS ON SPEAKING WITH CONTROL

I. When Should I Speak?

I should engage when the conversation is GENUINE.

Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Colossians 4:6 (NASB)

Tips for communication:

- Be Honest – Psalm 34:13
- Be Direct – Proverbs 10:19
- Be Gentle – Proverbs 15:1

II. When Should I Not Speak?

I should not engage when the conversation TURNS INTO AN ARGUMENT.

²³ Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴ A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. 2 Timothy 2:23-24 (NLT)

Tips for non-communication:

- ✓ Exercise self-control
- ✓ Place your confidence in God

We have everything we need to live a life that pleases God...⁵ Do your best to improve your faith by adding goodness, understanding, ⁶ self-control, patience, devotion to God, ⁷ concern for others, and love. ⁸ If you keep growing in this way, it will show that what you know about our Lord Jesus Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful. 2 Peter 1:3-9 (CEV)