

## Words Create Worlds

A Wise Man Once Said Nothing

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*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (NIV)*

- 1 *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:*
- 2 *a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,*
- 3 *a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,*
- 4 *a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,*
- 5 *a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,*
- 6 *a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,*
- 7 *a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,*
- 8 *a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*

The age of noise...penetrates the mind, filling it with a babel of distractions —  
news items, mutually irrelevant bits of information, blasts of corybantic or sentimental music,  
continually repeated doses of drama that bring no catharsis.”  
— Aldous Huxley, writer & philosopher

“A wealth of information creates a poverty of attention.”  
— Dr. Herbert A. Simon, economist & psychologist

### THE THEOLOGY OF SILENCE!

## The Bible Speaks of Silence in Several Ways:

### Reverence to God

*Habakkuk 2:20 (GW)*

20 *The LORD is in his holy temple. All the earth should be silent in his presence.*

### Expression of Despair

*Lamentations 2:10 (CEV)*

10 *Zion's leaders are silent. They just sit on the ground, tossing dirt on their heads and wearing sackcloth. Her young women can do nothing but stare at the ground.*

### Silence as Opposition

*Matthew 22:34 (NKJV)*

34 *But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.*

## **Silence as a Dramatic Pause**

*Revelation 8:1 (NKJV)*

*1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

“Open your mouth only if what you are going to say  
is more beautiful than the silence.”

— Spanish Proverb

## **1. SILENCE: OUR FIRST \_\_\_\_\_**

*Psalms 46:10 (TLB)*

*10 "Stand silent! Know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation in the world!"*

*Proverbs 10:19 (NIV)*

*19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*

### **There are times when...**

*Acts 4:20 (GW)*

*20 We cannot stop talking about what we've seen and heard."*

### **There are other times when...**

*Luke 23:9 (CEV)*

*9 Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus did not answer.*

*Isaiah 62:6-7 (CEV)*

*6 Jerusalem, on your walls I have stationed guards, whose duty it is to speak out day and night, without resting. They must remind the LORD 7 and not let him rest till he makes Jerusalem strong and famous everywhere.*

### **Jesus Silent Before Herod**

*Luke 23:9 (CEV)*

*9 Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus did not answer.*

### **Jesus Silent Before the High Priest**

*Matthew 26:62 (NKJV)*

*62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"*

### **Jesus Silent Before Pilate**

*John 19:10 (NKJV)*

*10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"*

*Matthew 7:6 (NRSV) cautions:*

*"Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you."*

**1) Speak your conviction, but be prudent.**

## **2) When God answers by saying nothing, it is still an answer.**

*Matthew 7:6 (NRSV) cautions:*

*"Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you."*

## **3) Not saying anything isn't a cop-out; it can be wise.**

Sometimes silence is an act of resistance. Not just standing up for the truth by communicating loudly—keeping silent when you aren't expected to be silent. That, too, is telling the truth."

— *Live Not by Lies: A Manual for Christian Dissidents* by Rod Dreher

## **2. YOU ARE WHAT YOU \_\_\_\_\_**

*Mark 14:69-71 (NKJV)*

*69 And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." 70 But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are one of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows it." 71 Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"*

*Colossians 4:6 (BBE)*

*6 Let your talk be with grace, mixed with salt, so that you may be able to give an answer to everyone.*

*2 Timothy 2:25 (MaceNT)*

*25 with great temper and meekness informing those, who differ in opinion; because he does not know, but God may change their minds, by convincing them of the truth.*

ANSWERS:

1. LANGUAGE

2. SPEAK