

07/20/25 Message

Part of Just Say..

July 19, 2025

Message: Just Say Nothing

Series: Just Say...

Just Say is a series on life and letting our message match our spirit.

A few weeks ago, we started this series called “Just Say...” and there’s this blank, because we’re exploring things God expects us to say, words that lead the way, guiding our actions, giving us an intentional direction to live our lives.

Proverbs

This morning we’re in the book of Proverbs. It’s the fortune cookie book – because you can look at so many of its verses and they’re like something you’d find in a fortune cookie. I know folks that read a proverb a day because proverbs are known for being insightful, instructive, and impactful. When you look at who wrote them, it’s traditionally thought that King Solomon and his students wrote them. King Solomon was known for what was called unparalleled wisdom; he had immense wealth; and was a great leader. He is known for building the first temple in Jerusalem. The time King Solomon reigned in Israel was known as the Golden Age, it was a period of peace and prosperity. The greatest attribute of King Solomon, he gave credit to God for giving him exceptional wisdom that allowed him to make wise judgments and solve complex problems.

—Pastor Chad

- King Solomon Wrote:
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs (also called Song of Solomon)

- Psalm 72
- Psalm 127

Proverbs theological basis/foundation:

- Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom

Proverbs 17:28 (NLT)

Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.

When to Say Nothing

- There is WISDOM in SILENCE

Our culture doesn't know how to communicate. We know how to type and how to make posts, but we don't know how to communicate in person, verbally, in a healthy way. I believe that the vast majority of people when someone else is talking, instead of attentively listening, you're sitting there thinking of what you're going to say next, or you just interrupt and talk over the other person. One of the skills I learned in grad school for counseling was to have what we call a "talker-listener" card. It's a tented piece of paper with "Talk" on one side and "Listen" on the other. Whichever side you're looking at is what you're expected to do. That's the rules. It changes the game! It makes communication more effective! To this, the author of Proverbs 17:28 tells us silence is one evidence of wisdom! Even a fool appears wise in silence, at least he or she hides their foolishness when their mouths are shut in silence. There is wisdom in silence! It shows respect. It shows interest. It shows control. It shows wisdom!

—Pastor Chad

Matthew 27:14 (also see Matthew 26:63)

- Jesus remained silent

- There is OPPORTUNITY in SILENCE
 - Silence creates an opening, an opportunity for God to speak!

Sometimes, just sometimes when you aren't hearing from

God... it's because you won't stop talking long enough to listen for Him! I hear from God more in my silence than I ever have when I'm busy jabbing and pouring my woes and woes out to Him.

—Pastor Chad

1 Kings 19:11-12

I believe all of these happened to get Elijah's attention! Before that Elijah was moaning and groaning and whining and doing a lot of jabbering. And it took a tornado, an earthquake, and a wildfire to get him to shut up! But when he did, verse 12 says, "...there was the sound of a gentle whisper." If you read on, you see where God told Elijah, I'm not done with you yet! Stop running, stop jabbering, and start trusting, start following me because I have great plans for you! God has that same message for you, by the way!

—Pastor Chad

- There is STRENGTH in SILENCE

In Matthew 26 and 27, Jesus was silent!

- His silence wasn't surrender.
- His silence was strength!

James 1:19 (NLT)

...You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

Silence isn't giving up, giving in, or giving out. Silence is strength. Silence requires discipline. Silence is self-control.

—Pastor Chad

Galatians 5:19-25 (NLT)

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,

21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will

not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, and self-control...

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

In the middle of Galatians 5, Paul said there are two forces constantly fighting against one another and you are smack in the middle of that fight. It's a tug-of-war... and you're in the middle. But when Jesus steps in, He's the winner, if you'll just let Him win! He's strong enough, but you have to turn control over to Him. Problem is we are control freaks. The Bible says He can only become greater when we become less. Then and only then, we believe Him enough to trust Him. And we trust Him enough to follow Him. That means we turn everything over to Him. He gives us self-control as a fruit of the Spirit! We listen more, speak less, and we don't allow our emotions to take over and control us because we have turned control over to Jesus! There is strength in silence!
—Pastor Chad

God Expects 50/50

If I left it there, we'd only get half of what God wants you to know this morning. Like the contrasts in Ecclesiastes 3; there is a time for everything under heaven... a time for birth, a time for death, a time to plant and a time to harvest, a time to cry and a time to laugh, a time for war and a time for peace. There is a time for silence, but there's also a time for not being silent! When God opens a door to share your faith with someone, He expects you to walk through the door and do it! When God opens a door to tell others about what Jesus has done for you... about your church family... about your spiritual journey – when He puts someone smack dab on your heart, or maybe right in front of you – He expects you to live it out and tell

others about Him.

—Pastor Chad

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

My prayer for you today is simple. May you be so connected to your Father in heaven, may you be so close to Jesus, and may you be so in tune with His Spirit who is hopefully living inside you that you know when to boldly speak with gentleness and respect and you know when to remain silent and just say nothing!

—Pastor Chad