

I Speak Jesus

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Fairview Missionary Church | Angola, IN

Scripture: Colossians 3:17

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Family and even connections here at the church. And it was this idea of the tongue. The Holy Spirit has been revealing in my own life just how off-track I can get with my own words. Something harsh spoken to my wife or kids, an inappropriate joke amongst friends, maybe ranting about someone else's incompetence and just showing my own incompetence not to gossip and to slander.

James 1:26 says this, "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. What do my words say about the authenticity of my religion?" I'm asking you to process that same question with me this morning. What do our words, Fairview Missionary Church, say about the kind of people that we are?

Because I don't know about you, but I do not want my life or my walk with Jesus to be worthless in the end. I want to get it right. I want it to matter because the truth is that words matter. I want you to think back all the way to the beginning of the biblical story, and we read that God said God literally spoke the universe into being. He said, "Let there be light, there was light." He spoke and the galaxies were formed.

He spoke and said, "Let us make mankind in our image." The story of sin and death was also started with words as the serpent spoke to Eve and said, "Did God really say that?" And God's redemption story all throughout Scripture has him speaking to humanity. We read the stories like Noah and Abraham and stories like Moses and the prophets.

God is speaking to humans. And then the Word of God, Jesus Christ, became flesh and dwelt among us and spoke the words of life, the words of the kingdom of God. And then the apostles, they spoke of the good news of Jesus' resurrection to all who would listen. And you and I have been given the gift of spreading this good news with our words to a lost and dying world. Words matter.

You see, but words have not just played a role in the story of all existence. Words have played an important role in the story of your existence and my existence. Think about it for a moment. Times in your life where something that was said to you or that you said changed the whole direction of your life. On a positive side, maybe this is a parent saying, "I love you. I'm proud of you.

You're doing a great job." Maybe this was a confrontation from a close friend or a spiritual mentor as they corrected us a little bit. A coach who believed in you and saw something in you and said, "You can do it. You're doing great." Or maybe on the negative side. Someone who spread a rumor about you at the office and it changed your job.

Maybe you had an abusive parent or an abusive spouse verbally to you. And their words cut you and broke you and changed your life. Maybe it was a teacher who said a limitation over your life. You will never be fill in the blank. Oftentimes, it's what's never said.

Never hearing the words, "I love you," never hearing the words you're good enough, never hearing, "I'm proud of you." Whether we like it or not, you and I have been impacted deeply by words. Words matter. And so my prayer today is that as we dig into God's Word together, the Holy Spirit would transform us into the image of Jesus in how we use our words. So would you pray with me toward that end this morning?

God, I believe what the apostle Peter spoke when he said that you have the words of eternal life. God, I confess that I do not in myself have the words of life. But I ask that your Holy Spirit now would speak through me. God, would we begin to understand just how much words matter and what you have in store for us for the future in Jesus' name.

Amen. The title of this morning's message is, "I Speak Jesus," or, as my daughter Wrigley said, "Seven speak Jesus." Whichever you prefer, I'm okay. Our main verse today is found in Colossians 3:17. So if you'd like to turn in your Bibles or in your mobile devices, you can turn to Colossians 3:17. But I'm going to be hopping around through a lot of verses. And most of them will be on the screen for you today.

But I invite you to focus in and open your heart this morning to what the Holy Spirit would have for us. As I begin, I'd like to give some context to what I mean by words. I believe there are three categories of human expression. There are thoughts, words, and actions. So first, you have thoughts. This is the inner beliefs, feelings, desires that we have.

This is the most important part of who you are and who I am, is how we think. It's also the most important part of a walk with Jesus, is learning to think correctly. That's why the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:2, "To be transformed by the renewing of your minds." But it's out of our thoughts, the inner person, through which our words and our actions flow. It helps me with a word picture.

I think of a spigot that has maybe a two-way splitter attached to it. The spigot is the source of the water. The two-way splitter has now made two avenues through which this water is going to flow. How we speak and how we act is the avenue through which God has given us to express what is inside. Luke 6:45 affirms this when we read, "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.

For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Now, today, we're going to focus on the category of words, and I want to clarify what I mean by words. I'm talking spoken words, written words, typed words, posted words, texted words, sign language words, road rage sign language words. They all count. These are all ways in which we communicate with words.

But I hope you're getting the picture that what you say matters because it shows your heart and it shapes your future. Our main thought today comes from Colossians 3. Verse 17, we read, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." I don't know about you, but as I read this passage, I wonder what does it mean to speak in the name of the Lord Jesus?

We often use this phrase when we pray in Jesus' name, amen. What do we mean? What does the apostle Paul mean in this passage? And how do we practically live that out in our lives to speak in the name of the Lord Jesus? And so this morning, I would like to present three categories that I believe the Scripture shows us on how we speak in the name of Jesus.

These three categories are speaking with Jesus as our master, Jesus as our model, and Jesus as our means. I'm going to briefly unpack each of these categories, and then we're going to conclude with a time of practical application and reflection. So let's begin. Category one, Jesus as our master. What does it mean to speak with Jesus as our master?

This is all about learning to speak under the authority of Jesus. Now, in our culture, we don't like this idea of authority. You know it's kind of like, "It's my life. I'll say what I want. It's my Facebook account. I'll post what I

want. We don't like this idea to say, "I have to fall under authority." Now, I believe there are multiple reasons in Scripture why Jesus should have the authority over us.

The first is that you and I were created by Jesus and for Jesus. We find this in one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture, Colossians 1: 16, "For in Him," referring to Jesus, all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him. Jesus is not just the author of life.

He's the purpose of life. You and I were created to bring glory to Jesus, and that includes our words, your words, my words. We're created to bring glory to Jesus. Jesus has authority over us because He is our Creator and the One for whom we are created. Second, I believe Jesus deserves our authority over us because we were freed from sin and death by Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20 says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God. You are not your own. You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Now, I don't know about you, but when I go to a store and I purchase something, and I put some money down on the counter, or I swipe my credit card, I expect to be the owner of that object when I walk out of the store.

Jesus has purchased us with His blood on the cross. He is not just our Creator. He is our Savior. And He has the right to be Lord of our lives because of what He has done for us. He is our Lord because of salvation. And finally, I believe that Jesus should be the master of our lives because one day, you and I will give account to God for everything that we have spoken.

We read this in Matthew 12:36, but I tell you that everyone will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. You and I are stewards of these bodies that God has given us. And one day, each of us will stand before Him and have to answer for every word that we have uttered. Speaking with Jesus as our master is about submitting to His authority.

And so I encourage you to process this question this morning in your life. Who is Master or Lord of your tongue? Do I speak in ways that are mindful that I am His and I was created for Him? Do I speak in ways that are mindful of what He's done for me on the cross? And do I speak in ways that are mindful that one day I will stand before Jesus and have to answer for what I have said.

Jesus as our master is the beginning of learning to speak in the name of Jesus. Second, we want to look at Jesus as our model. Jesus says our model is all about learning to speak the heart of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:22 through 24 says, "You were taught with regard to your former way of life to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires to be made new in the attitude of your minds and to put on the new self created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Being a disciple of Jesus is about spending time with him and becoming like him and doing the things that he did.

And so the character of Christ should become our character. What Jesus loves, we should love. As Jesus is merciful, we should be merciful. As Jesus is just, we should be just. And as He is holy, we are called to be holy. Ephesians 5:8 through 10 says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light.

For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, and find out what pleases the Lord. We should long to speak words that please the Lord. Now, this is where I want to encourage you that spiritual disciplines are essential to learning to speak in the name of Jesus. Because spiritual disciplines, things like reading the Bible, coming to church, prayer, solitude, fasting, these are spaces where we learn the heart of God and we learn what pleases him because it's not about earning God's approval, but it's about knowing him.

You have to know him to know what pleases him. And so Jesus as our model is all about speaking the heart of God. And so I encourage you to ask this question of yourself this morning, "Whose heart do my words express? Do I speak in ways that show the heart of Jesus? Do I speak in ways that reveal the character of God? And do I speak in a way that shows honor and value to the things that God delights in?" Jesus as our model.

And third, to speak in the name of Jesus is for Jesus to be our means through which we speak. This is all about learning to speak in the power of Jesus because it's a fantastic goal to want it to submit to the authority of Christ and to want to share his heart with others, but then you are forced to wrestle with verses like James 3:8, "But no human being can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil full of deadly poison." Wow. Thanks, James. That is a downer. The apostle Paul, though, wrestled with this same truth and it grieved him. And in Romans chapter 7, he helped shift our gaze to the answer. When we read, "What a wretched man I am. Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

Thanks be to God who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord." When we repent of our sin and place our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to convict and to strengthen and to guide us in this relationship with God. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

And we all who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." In the Spirit of God, you have the power and authority of Jesus. You don't have to be a slave to sin anymore.

The Holy Spirit is actively transforming us into the image of Jesus, and He has given us the right and the ability to speak in ways that show the heart of God and submit to the authority of God. Speaking in the name of Jesus is learning to let Jesus be our means through which we speak. Being fully transparent, this takes incredible humility and obedience.

The humility to wake up and say, "God, I cannot do this on my own today. I cannot speak the words of life unless you help me." And learning the obedience to say, "When the Holy Spirit convicts us and says, "Sam, do not say that. Don't talk to your kids that way." And in that moment to say, "Yes, Holy Spirit, I will be obedient." I want to ask you to process this question this morning.

Do I speak in the power of the Holy Spirit? Does what I say show the Spirit's presence in my life, and does it show the Spirit's power in my life? Jesus as our master, Jesus as our model, and Jesus as our means. So let's get practical today. When I prepared this message, I did not want to come up here and just beat us with a bunch of thou shalt not lists, you know like, "Do not gossip.

Do not swear. Do not lie." Those are all in Scripture, and it's good to have that list to know what is right and what is wrong. But my prayer today is that you would invest your energy into knowing what kind of words God does desire. Because I believe that as we learn what pleases the heart of God and we learn how to submit to His authority, that the Holy Spirit will convict us of what is not of Him.

Oftentimes, when we make a list of don't do's, we can accomplish them and still have no intimacy with Jesus. We can say, "Yeah, I don't do that. But do you know the Lord? Do you speak in the authority and power of the Holy Spirit?" I know for me, it's easy to rationalize why that's not my struggle. Hear that one a lot in church ministry because we can rationalize, "You know what?

I know somebody who lies like all the time, so I never am deceptive with my words." We know somebody who gossips all the time, and so we say, "I never talk poorly about someone else." We know somebody who maybe has rage issues with their words, and so we tell ourselves, "No, I'm never too harsh with what I say. Let's stop looking at the faces of one another and look at the face of Jesus and ask him, "What do you desire?

What do you love?" That's what I want you to set your affections on this morning. So I'd like to conclude with three very practical action steps this morning. First, I want to encourage you to practice the TNT of speaking Jesus. Now, you may say TNT. What do you mean by that? Well, TNT stands for true, noble, and tasteful.

And let me just say this picture, this guy looks super creepy, but my wife and I were getting my slides ready and we're like, "Hey, let's just put it in." So I know it's strange. True, noble, tasteful. Pause before you speak. And ask the Lord, "Is what I'm about to say 100% true? Isn't it completely rooted in reality because Scripture says that Jesus is the truth.

So if you want to speak the name of Jesus, you cannot be speaking deceit in the name of Jesus. Is what I'm about to say true? And second, is what I'm about to say noble? Does it reflect the heart of God? Does it value what he values? Does it love what he loves? Because some things can be true and be truly wicked. And you can say something that is honestly wrong. It's not about just speaking the truth.

It's, "Is this the heart of Jesus coming out of my mouth?" And then third is what I'm about to say tasteful. What do I mean by tasteful? Well, is it appropriate for the timing of the conversation? Proverbs 29:20 says this, "Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.

There is a wrong time to say a right thing." And each of us can probably attest to that foot-in-mouth moment that we said, "Boy, if I had just had a little more patience, is what I'm about to say tasteful for the timing? Is it also appropriate for the needs of the one to whom I'm speaking?" Ephesians 4:29 says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Does what I'm saying benefit the person to whom I'm speaking, and does it build them up?" Now, don't get me wrong. We live in a fallen world. There is a time as believers where you will have to have a confrontation or you will have to give correction to someone else. You may have to set up boundaries in your life. You can still speak in the name of Jesus and have hard conversations.

Jesus had hard conversations. Sometimes the truth hurts. Sometimes having the heart of God is being firm against the things that grieve him and hurt the people that he created in his image. Sometimes the best way to love someone is to set up a boundary that keeps them from causing more damage in a situation. All of that is true. But I want you to remember that Jesus always had hard conversations for the purpose of building others up.

In my own life, a helpful analogy that I have is think of the difference between a prison stabbing and a medically necessary surgery. Both instances, you have a human being with a knife cutting another human being. Completely different intentions, completely different outcomes. And yet, I'm honestly saying that there are so many times in my life where I have held the knife of truth and I have executed it like a prison stabbing in a conversation because I lacked the love and discernment of the Lord in that moment.

I lacked what Paul talked about in 1 Corinthians 13:1. "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I'm only a resounding gong or a clanging symbol." Is what I'm about to say true? Is it noble? Is it also tasteful? Second, I want to encourage you, pray before important conversations. I try to do this at the church whenever we're headed into a hard conversation.

I try to get alone with the Lord and praise something like this, "Lord, whatever I'm about to say that is of me and not of you, don't let me say it. Would you shut my mouth?" And God, if there's something you want me to say in this conversation, no matter the cost, no matter how nervous I am that it is of you, would you open my mouth and give me the boldness to say it? And Lord, would you give me the wisdom to know the difference in this meeting?

And I can attest that that has saved me so much heartache and frustration and pain, and yet I also don't do it nearly enough. I think, "What if I prayed that prayer every time I had a disagreement with my wife? What if I

prayed that prayer before I disciplined my kids and corrected them? How much more could the power of the Holy Spirit be evident in my life and in my family by stopping and praying?

I encourage you pray before important conversations. And finally, I want to encourage you, don't lose the joy and laughter of life. Speaking Jesus does not mean that we become some stoic, gloomy, Pharisee-like people. Laugh. Smile. Let the delight of the Lord be on your face. Laugh at yourself. Laugh at life. It is comical.

What we go through and what happens in our life. I think of the words of the psalmist in Psalm 1:26, 2 and 3, where he writes, "Our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Do not lose the joy of life." I encourage us, Fairview Missionary Church, to speak Jesus because words matter.

Let us submit to the authority of Jesus as our master. Let us follow the example of Jesus as our model and let us do it in the power of Jesus as our means by who we speak. We're going to sing a song as we close this morning. And I invite you if there's something the Lord is prodding on your heart that you would like prayer for. Maybe it relates to this message.

Maybe it's something that you've said that you regret or something that was spoken over you that has deeply wounded you. Our prayer team is going to be available at the sides of the stage. You can also feel free to come to the altar and kneel before the Lord. No one will bother you if you come to the altars. If you'd like prayer, though, seek out one of our prayer team members. We would love to meet with you. But let's speak Jesus as a family. Would you pray with me?

God, we love you. We thank you. Thank you for the gift of your written Word. And more than anything, God, thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. That you came and you bled and you died. And by faith, we can receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit through whom we can, in the power of God, speak in the name of Jesus. And so, Lord, would you help us to submit to your authority as master?

Would you help us to follow your model of what you love and what you care about? And God, would you help us to do it in the power of the Holy Spirit? I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.