

August 28th – A Man of Few Words

“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven and you are on earth, therefore let your words be few.” (Ecc. 5:2)

Studies have found that men say about 7,000 words a day. Sounds like a lot doesn't it? Not really, when you consider that women average about 20,000 words a day! That's a lot of talking! But both sexes only average about 500-700 words a day of real value – words that are meant to communicate an item of importance to both parties. Clearly, many of us love to talk.

It has been well-said that God gave us two ears and one mouth so we can listen twice as much as we talk. Think about the words you say throughout the course of the average day. Who or what are most of your words about? I know some people that seem interested in talking only about themselves. I know others that want to tell you all about their families. Rarely do some of those people ever take an interest in you or your family. Perhaps our conversation is an indication that we've become too focused on ourselves.

Rather than spending all our time talking, we ought to stop and listen for the still, small voice of God (1 Kings 19:12). Listening for God's voice begins by spending time in prayer and in the study of His Word. The way I see it, prayer is the time we spend talking to God. Bible study is the time He talks to us. Though He may not speak audibly, He communicates with His children by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. So then, let's vow to speak less and listen more – especially to our Savior Jesus.