

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Silence

"Speech is silver, silence is golden." – Thomas Carlyle

"Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute." – Josh Billings

"Nothing strengthens authority so much as silence." – Leonardo da Vinci

"Silence is better than unmeaning words." – Pythagoras

"A word is worth one coin; silence is worth two." – *The Talmud*

"Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.' But He answered her not a word..." (Matt. 15:21-23).

At first, one might be inclined to think that Jesus was being rude and insensitive. After all, a question had been posed to Him, and He was ignoring it, or so it seemed. As you look more closely in the text, you find that His silence actually led to this woman's persistence. After all, it was true, the Lord was sent to the house of Israel. But her faith transcended that barrier.

"Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.' And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughters was healed from that very hour" (Matt. 15:25-28).

When you see the totality of the passage, you realize that the Lord was not being rude, but was utilizing the silence to motivate this woman into revealing her great faith.

Indeed silence can be an effective tool; regretfully one that far too many don't seem to know.

There is another aspect to silence which can also be golden. And that is to realize that when God is silent upon a matter, it is not our place to interject our thoughts and ideas to improve upon what has been written.

The Bible warns us about adding to or subtracting from God's Word. "Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar" (Prov. 30:6). "...if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18-19).