

Messenger of Truth

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

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## **Talk**

"I know that after all is said and done, more is said than done." – Rita Mae Brown

"Talk does not cook rice." – Chinese Proverb

"Have more than thou showest,/Speak less than thou knowest." – William Shakespeare

"He who talks much cannot always talk well." – Goldoni

"Forgive my my nonsense, as I also forgive the nonsense of those that think they talk sense." – Robert Frost

There is an old urban expression that some people have the, "gift of gab." Another says, "they can talk your ear off."

Admittedly, perhaps all of us at times are guilty of saying a lot more than we probably should. This can, however, become a concern if we find that we are all talk and no action.

Sometimes this can be rather embarrassing. For example, to have an entire lectureship devoted to the theme of world evangelism, with impassioned lessons on the need to tell others about Jesus. They tell them what Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..." (Matt. 28:19). Then when the lectureship is over, everyone goes home and life goes on as usual.

James can hit us rather hard with the admonition, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourself. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:22-25).

Often in the church we place the emphasis on sins of commission. We like to emphasize those passages that deal with "Thou shalt not." But in honesty, much of our guilt lies within only "talking a good talk, and not walking the walk."

Now this is not to say that something should not be said. Those who proclaim the Gospel have an admonition to preach the Gospel. Even when it is something we don't like to hear, the charge remains. However, part of that admonition needs to place emphasis upon the need for less talk and more action.

Read Matthew 25:31-46 and note that our Lord reserved praise for those who turned their talk into action. May we be more motivated to do the same.