

A Tale of Two Talkers

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Eternally Speaking Now



I don't know about you, but I've been blatantly reminded recently that I simply don't have **control** over much of anything.

Whether it's the unpredictable actions of others,
my ever-changing calendar,
or my own child's growing pains,
I just can't **force** things to go the way I desire.

There is one thing, though,
that consistently stays under my **authority**:
my **words**.

The entire world can swirl out of **control**,
but I still remain in **charge** of my own **mouth**.

This prompts me to **tell** a **tale** of two **talkers**.

Unfortunately, the first **talker** is I. Back in my single days, my sister and I liked these two guys. They were a part of our church group, and the four of us participated in various activities together with others our age.

One day we **called** them to see if they could get together with us. There was no answer, so we left a **voice mail**. After we finished the **message**, I **proclaimed** in a defensive, self-protective (and may I add, immature) mode, "Fine! Just throw him out the window."

What that **statement** really meant was,
"My heart likes him, but I don't want him to break it,
so...I'll just decide not to like him anymore."
(Those **declarations** rarely work, by the way.)

Well, guess what? The worst thing happened. As I made my brazen **comment**, little did I know, the phone had not disconnected. Yes, my **words** were **recorded**, and whenever the young men eventually heard our **message**, they *also* witnessed my thoughtless **pronouncement**.

Awkward days followed that incident. While I still fall terribly short of perfection, I did **learn** something crucial that sticks with me today. Can you guess what it is?

Confirm that the phone is disconnected
*before you **say** something brash?*

That's an excellent idea, but it's only half of the **lesson**. The greater **moral** of the story is this:

Don't say anything reckless at all.

***"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak,
they will give account of it in the day of judgment."
Matthew 12:36***

***"Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.
My brethren, these things ought not to be so."
James 3:10***

***"Whoever guards his mouth and tongue
keeps his soul from troubles."
Proverbs 21:23***

That sums it up well, doesn't it?

Which brings me to the second **tale**.

A couple of weeks ago, a church staff member phoned Robin about something that needed his attention. Her **call** had gone to his voicemail, so she had left a **message**. It was about a dire situation regarding an ill person, so Robin played the **recording** on speakerphone for me to **hear** as well. After the woman finished and said goodbye, without knowing it, her phone didn't disconnect. She continued **talking**, thinking the phone had hung up.

"Oh dear," I thought, full of apprehension. "What will she **say**?"

Triggered by the **lesson** I'd learned the hard way years prior, I urged Robin to immediately stop playing her extended **recording**. I didn't want to **eavesdrop** on something she didn't intend for our **ears**.

But it was too late.
Like walls that **talk**,
the phone secretly ushered us into her home,
and we accidentally **witnessed** her extraneous **speech**.

Do you know what Robin and I overheard?

She was praying.

She was **talking** to God.

She was **interceding** for our mutual friend,
she was surrendering the situation to the Lord,
and she had no idea that her **words**
were documented for us to behold.

She could have been **caught** saying many other things; instead, she was **found** doing the honorable. I pray I am found doing the same.

***"Do not curse the king, even in your thought;
do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom;
for a bird of the air may carry your voice,
and a bird in flight may tell the matter."
Ecclesiastes 10:20***

CHALLENGE

These two **accounts** succinctly **present**
a paramount life lesson:
*If we don't have anything good to **say**,
we're best not **saying** anything at all, right?*

Even if we assume another person won't hear us, there is Someone who always will: God. Our Creator is **aware** of every **word** we **speak**. He granted us a **mouth** as a gift, and He also gave us the **choice to rule over it**. When we use our **mouth** for evil, we hurt our Father's heart; when we use it for **good**, we bless Him (and things go **well** for us).

***"Do not be rash with your mouth,
and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.
For God is in heaven, and you on earth;
therefore let your words be few."
Ecclesiastes 5:2***

When all is **said** and done, there's one **voice** we'd do well to always heed: the Lord's. If there's going to be any **talking** overheard, let it be His Word, **speaking** into our lives and the lives of others for His **glory** and our **good**.

Not only does the Bible teach the **best** life lessons,
but its Author (God) also happens to be
the **finest Talker** to whom we could ever listen.

[Pastor Rob's Recent Sermon on Speaking Blessings](#)

