

"WEEKLY WISDOM"  
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For The Week of 07.26.10

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING GOOD TO SAY..."

Luke 1:38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Just how important are the words that we speak? Well for example how important are the ingredients to the outcome of a pie? That depends on what type of pie you want in the end result. What do you want to see manifest in your life, the plan of God, or your own plan? Your words are one of, if not the most important element in what that outcome will be like. Let's begin looking at this in what we see from what happened in Mary's life, and in Zacharias' life.

We start with our text from Luke above where Mary was told by the angel Gabriel that she would bring forth a Son and call His name Jesus. Her first response was understandable. She asks the angel how this could happen since she did not know a man. He explains to her that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and she would supernaturally conceive the Son of God. Once she heard how this supernatural event would happen her response is above in Luke 1:38.

Mary immediately responds with these powerful words, "Let it be to me according to your word." Realize how unusual this event was for her obviously. She was rather startled when Gabriel first appeared to her. As far as we know she had never seen an angel before. Then after explaining to her what was beyond the natural that would take place miraculously by the work of the Holy Spirit, she does not hesitate but responds with words of total agreement. Before this even occurred Gabriel had appeared to Zacharias and had given him some supernatural news as well. Let's look at his response.

Luke 1:11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luke 1:12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

Luke 1:15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

Luke 1:16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, *"to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,"* and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Luke 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

Luke 1:20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

When Gabriel first appeared to Zacharias he too was troubled for I am sure he too had never seen an angel before. Gabriel gives Zacharias God's plan. His wife who was unable to have children before would bring forth this great preacher whose name would be called John. He would prepare the way for the Lord by turning hearts toward God. Zacharias then asks a question, "How shall I know this?" It was not the same as Mary's question. This is similar to saying, "How is this possible?" Mary's question was simply wanting to know how it would be done, not how is this possible. This is important because if Zacharias doubted what God was revealing to him through Gabriel, God knew that he would speak with doubt filled words and not faith filled words.

Now notice what Gabriel then says to Zacharias in verse twenty above. "But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until these things take place because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time." Why was Zacharias made mute? If God's plan's just come to pass then why be concerned about what Zacharias would say? Because what we say has everything to do with whether we see our plans come to pass or God's plans. What kind of pie to you want? The outcome will be determined by the ingredients you put in.

This is so important to learn because even though many believers know what God's Word reveals God's plan is for our lives, it is often our words that is keeping it from coming to pass. If it were not so then Gabriel would not have seen to it that Zacharias would not be able to talk. Ever heard the old saying, "If you don't have anything good to say, don't say nothing at all." Sometimes I wish that God would still employ this very tactic on us today by making us mute. But of course if that happened we wouldn't be able to get all that was needed done in our lives. But the birth of John the Baptist had to take place and God made sure that nothing was going to stop the most important event in history, the birth of His Son.

Luke 1:57 Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.

Luke 1:58 When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

Luke 1:59 So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias.

Luke 1:60 His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John."

Luke 1:61 But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name."

Luke 1:62 So they made signs to his father—what he would have him called.

Luke 1:63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled.

Luke 1:64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

So we see that once God's plan in bringing forth the front runner to His Son Jesus was born and Zacharias was now in agreement with God's plan proven by writing the name John, his tongue was loosed and he was once again able to speak. Had God not made him mute, his unbelief, believing in something other than what God had said, would have kept God's plan from coming forth. This is a powerful truth that we need to fully understand.

James 3:3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body.

James 3:4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. ¶ See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

James gives us great insight into just how powerful our words are in determining what our outcome will be like. He uses two very easy to understand examples. If you have ever seen the bit that goes into a horse's mouth it is rather small in comparison to the rest of the size of a horse, especially a Clydesdale. The bit is designed to put pressure on the tongue of the horse which in turn will cause that horse's body to respond to the control of the rider.

Then he also uses the example of a ship. When you again look at the size of the rudder on a ship in comparison to the overall size of the ship itself, it is rather small in comparison. To someone who knew nothing of how a ship operates it wouldn't look all that important, and yet the very outcome of where that ship winds up is determined by the use of that rudder. If you don't adjust that rudder properly it will wind up where you don't want to be. But one thing you can rest assured of, the outcome of

where a ship will wind up at the end of a trip is going to be determined by that rudder.

So it is with our lives as well. If we want to experience God's will for our lives one of if not the most important factor that will determine this is our words. As insignificant as that may seem too most, your words are without a doubt one of the most significant things that is deciding your direction in life. If you want to see more of God's purpose and plans for your life come to pass you are going to have to do something with what is coming out of your mouth.

Jer. 29:11 I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope.

We often speak of how good God's plans are for our lives, but no matter how good those plans may be they are not going to come to pass if we don't do something about what we say. We are either turning our ship toward the plans God has for us, or away from those plans. They don't just come to pass, we must like Mary declare, "Let it be to me according to your word."

See You Again Next Week For More  
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MAY GOD'S VERY BEST BE YOURS!  
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