

## He Kept Silent

Mark 14:60-61

### I. Introduction: 1, 2

1. 3 There's an ancient proverb that says, "Silence is golden." That's such a true statement for many reasons. Consider:\*\*

"The right word may be effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause." --Mark Twain

"Speak only if it improves upon the silence." --Mahatma Gandhi

"It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt of it." --Abraham Lincoln\*\*

2. My dad always told me to keep my mouth shut unless I had something really important to say.
3. Sometimes it is better to just listen and refrain from responding. Better to ignore insults and criticisms. Better to turn a deaf ear to absurd accusations.
- A. On the most famous Friday in history, we witnessed an example of such silence when Jesus was criticized and accused by His enemies; He was peculiarly and noticeably silent.
- B. This was foretold by the prophet Isaiah: **Isa. 53:7**: "*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.*"
4. Let's consider Jesus' silence and some important applications we can make from it.

### II. Discussion:

1. 4 Examples of Jesus' Silence: He was silent when...

A. \*\* **False witnesses twisted His words**: **Matt. 26:59-63**

- (1) If you had been in Jesus' shoes, how would you have responded?
- (2) We need to listen very closely to our critics, especially when we are being falsely accused; invariably they will twist our words into saying something we didn't say.
- (3) In some such cases the best answer is no answer at all; they won't listen anyway.

B. 5 **He was "being accused by the chief priests and elders"**: **Matt. 27:11-14**

- (1) Note how Pilate responded to Jesus' silence; it was to his "*great amazement*."
- (2) Why this reaction? He was used to people vehemently defending themselves when accused of wrongdoing.
- (3) In this case, everyone had already made up their mind that Jesus was wrong and had to go; nothing He could have said would have changed their minds.
- (a) Sometimes that is exactly the best course of action (e.g., When people you're trying to teach consistently resist the truth. Sometimes the best thing to do is just shut up!).
- (b) As one preacher said, "You might as well save your breath to cool your coffee."

C. 6 **Notice two more times when Jesus was silent**:

- (1) **When He was brought before Herod**: **Lk. 23:6-12**
- (2) **When He returned to Pilate**: **Jn. 19:1-9**
- (a) Jesus didn't need to speak because His actions spoke louder than His words.

- (b) His miracles shouted to the heavens that He was the Son of God (**Jn. 14:10-11**: “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. I believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”).
- (c) During His ministry He spoke with authority and power (**Matt. 7:29**: “for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”; Matt. 21:23-27).
- (d) His teaching amazed even the doctors of the law:
  - (i) In Matthew 22 Jesus had a series of confrontations with the Jewish religious elite:
    - ✓ Paying taxes to Caesar (**Matt. 22:22**: “When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.”),
    - ✓ With the Sadducees over the resurrection (**Matt. 22:33**: “And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.”),
    - ✓ With the scribes over the greatest commandment in the law (no answer).
  - (ii) Then Jesus turned the tables on them and asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” (Matt. 22:41ff). They were caught in a dilemma because David called the Christ “Lord,” therefore, how could he be David’s son?
  - (iii) In this series of confrontations He more than adequately proved His authority: **Matt. 22:26**: “And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”
- (e) \*\* If their minds would not accept Jesus on the basis of the miracles he performed and His obvious authority; what could He possibly say now that would cause them to accept Him?

## 2. 7 What Did His Silence Say?

A. \*\* It spoke of His humility: **Phil. 2:8**: “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

- (1) He didn’t need to speak; He let his demeanor, deportment and attitude do His speaking for Him.
- (2) Jesus’ humility:
  - (a) Lead to His exaltation (**Phil. 2:9-11**).
  - (b) Serves as the example we are to follow (**Phil. 2:1-8**).
  - (c) By following His example of humility, we too will be exalted! **Luke 14:11**: “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## B. 8 It spoke of His surrender and obedience:

- (1) Jesus surrendered the riches and glory of heaven for the poverty of an earthly existence (**Matt. 8:20**: “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”).
- (2) He surrendered the privileges of His deity for the frailty of humanity (**Heb. 2:14-18**; **Phil. 2:7**: “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”).
- (3) He surrendered Himself voluntarily to be offered as a sacrificial lamb for our sins (**Lk. 22:42**: “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”; **Matt. 26:53-54**: “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”)

### C. 9 It spoke of His patience:

- (1) What happens when ignorant and unlearned people make ridiculous and absurd accusations against us? Our tendency is to become agitated, upset, impatient and angry.
- (2) If anyone ever had the right to lose His patience with people, it was Jesus. I think that is one of His most marvelous characteristics. Especially at this point in His life!
  - (a) Yet He did not respond with a verbal diatribe; He kept silent.
  - (b) When He did speak, what did He say? **Luke 23:34:** *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

### D. 10 It spoke of His vicarious suffering:

- (1) Jesus did not suffer for Himself; it was for you and me! **Heb. 13:12-13:** *"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach."*
  - (a) If ever a "time out" needed to be called, it was on this occasion!
  - (b) If ever there was a time for a "do over," it was on this occasion!
  - (c) If ever there was a time for a "hey, hold on, wait just one minute," it was this occasion!
- (2) But instead, Jesus suffered in silence...for us! **Isa. 53:7:** *"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."*

### E. 11 It spoke of His serenity of spirit; His soberness over His impending death and the seriousness of His purpose:

- (1) Prophecy pointed to this occasion.
- (2) God's eternal purpose was on the line!
  - (a) The means for our redemption could only be realized by Jesus paying the ransom for our wrongs.
  - (b) This was the most serious, sober, and solemn occasion imaginable; and Jesus handled the situation perfectly!

## 3. 12 Application to our worship services:

### A. \*\* Communion is a time of silence: Why?

- (1) The Lord's Supper is a time of solemn meditation (**1 Cor. 11:28-30:** *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*).
- (2) The Lord's Supper is a time of serious reflection (**1 Cor. 11:26:** *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*).
- (3) It may be the only time during the week you're with so many people who are silent!

### B. 13 Communion is a time of humility:

- (1) We must approach the partaking of the supper with a spirit of a broken heart, a contrite spirit, and an unworthy, undeserving, and unassuming attitude. My sins put Him on the cross!
- (2) The supper reminds us that we have not even one thing to boast or brag about in and of ourselves. In the overall scheme of things I am nothing!

### C. 14 Communion is a time to express the spirit of surrender:

- (1) We must show a willingness to give up our modest credentials (wealth, prestige, honor, social status, education, etc. our absolutely without worth!).

(2) So we yield our earthly place and position as the communion reminds all of us we are just common folks.

(3) We're all equals at the Lord's Table; we're all the same. Sinners!

**D. 15 Communion is a time we gather together in a spirit of mutual love, concern and forbearance:**

(1) There's no place at the Lord's Table for impatience with one another; holding grudges, etc.

(2) Our attention is to be entirely upon Him and what He did for us!

(3) Jesus is the standard and He calls all of us to a higher plane of consciousness.

**E. 16 Communion is a time for tender hearts:**

(1) We must reflect on His suffering with broken hearts knowing my sins put Him on the cross.

(2) His body was beaten for me! He was mocked and spat upon for me! He experienced unimaginable pain and agony for me! His lifeblood oozed from His body for me! He died for me!

**F. 17 Communion is a time express an attitude of extreme seriousness:**

(1) How should one act at a funeral? We take the supper to remember His death: **1 Cor. 11:26:**  
*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*

(2) That commands our utmost seriousness and deepest sincerity.

**III. Conclusion: 18**

1. Sunday when we silently sit in worship service and eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine we are remembering He who suffered in silence for us.
2. The slain lamb who was slain for our sins; without His sacrifice we would have no forgiveness of sins and no hope.

Adapted from an on-line article, "He Was Silent," by Ken Weliever, The Preacherman.