

May 23, 2021

The Sunday View

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus." — John 12:21

Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate at the entrance. Thank You

Schedule

The Lord's Day Assembly

10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2iYxrL7ZUgTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey
Satan's Plan for the Church II
Revelation 12

Young People's Classes Today

High School & Up: 5 PM
Contact David Posey for information at
(530) 558-5057

Middle School: 5 PM
Contact Dan Stegall for information
(818) 209-9810

Weekly Classes

Tuesday 10 AM

Class discontinued until the fall

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building
The Attributes of God
Various Speakers

Saturday Men's Breakfast
7 AM, second Saturday of the month
Contact Tyler Wade @ tyler@ppldev.com

Additional Classes

There are some smaller classes in progress.
If you are interested in participating in any of them,
please contact David Posey

Information

Masks Still Required

Even though the CDC has recommended a change on face covering policy, it isn't official until approved by the state of California. Therefore, masks are still required inside the building for everyone, vaccinated or not, until we get clarification from the health department, which we hope will come soon.

Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at www.folsomchurch.com for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password-protected members' section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

Classes & Home Studies

We have classes for children from 18 months and up on Wednesday night at 7 PM. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at dpaulposey@mac.com
or text at 530-558-5057

Notes, Quips & Quotes

“Let’s Play Two!”

Baseball legend Earnie Banks is famous for getting to the ballpark and saying “let’s play two!” He was talking about playing a double-header. His infectious love for the game led him to love being in the ballpark and playing two games in one day was the ideal day for him. Other players — those who never became legendary like Banks — found playing two to be not that great.

I’m glad we are not “playing two” (or three) anymore, when comes to our service times. It’s great that we can now all get together at one time and see each other. But I am looking forward to next Sunday when we resume Sunday morning Bible classes. Bible classes are important and that’s an understatement. They are critical in the life of a church and we have many talented teachers who are able to communicate the meaning of the text and are wise and experienced enough to teach us how we can put it to work in our daily lives.

So, next week, the kids will be in their classes and the adults will be in auditorium (as they are on Wednesdays) and then, when the new quarter starts on July 4th, we hope to get back to “normal.” We’ll keep you posted on all of this as we work out the logistics.

Your Brain on the Bible

We may be asked, “How do you know Jesus is the Son of God?” There are many biblical answers to that question, of course (see Romans 1:4 for one). But perhaps it is enough to say, “*Any person who is put in a tomb dead and gets up and walks out of it alive is whomever he says he is.*”

Someone said “I had a good life until I was taught the scriptures.” He was most likely being facetious to make a point. He’s saying that before he learned God’s will, he was on his own, making his own decisions based on his own worldview and with his own value system. He was only concerned about being happy. But God’s word changed all that. Now he has to surrender his will to God’s will and that’s not easy, especially in those areas where doing his will was simpler or more fun or less taxing. And God’s will is for holiness, not necessarily happiness. Maturity for a Christian comes at the point where doing God’s will is his or her greatest delight. When you truly delight in something, you can’t get enough of it. Several of psalms make that point:

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
— Psalm 1:1-2

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is
within my heart.” — Psalm 40:8

In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. — Psalm 119:14-16

Jesus told his disciples, “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24). He was using hyperbole to make a point but he was still making a point. Just before the camel statement he said, “*only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 19:23). Someone observed that you can get a camel through the eye of a needle but it’s extremely tough on the camel. Let’s ponder that message from Jesus and never ignore or explain away his words.

WHEN THEY BROUGHT Jesus to the place where his dead friend Lazarus lay, Jesus wept. It is very easy to sentimentalize the scene and very tempting because to sentimentalize something is to look only at the emotion in it and the emotion it stirs in us rather than at the reality of it, which we are always tempted not to look at because reality, truth, silence are all what we are not much good at and avoid when we can. To sentimentalize something is to savor rather than to suffer the sadness of it, is to sigh over the prettiness of it rather than to tremble at the beauty of it, which may make fearsome demands of us or pose fearsome threats. Not just as preachers but as Christians in general we are particularly given to sentimentalizing our faith as much of Christian art and Christian preaching bear witness—the sermon as tearjerker, the Gospel an urn of long-stemmed roses and baby’s breath to brighten up the front of the church, Jesus as Gregory Peck.

But here standing beside the dead body of his dead friend he is not Gregory Peck. He has no form or comeliness about him that we should desire him, and as one from whom men hide their faces we turn from him. To see a man weep is not a comely sight, especially this man whom we want to be stronger and braver than a man, and the impulse is to turn from him as we turn from anybody who weeps because the sight of real tears, painful and disfiguring, forces us to look to their source where we do not choose to look because where his tears come from, our tears also come from. — Fred Buechner, *Telling the Truth*

“Worship is man’s full reason for existence. *Worship is why we were born and why we are born again. Worship is the reason for our genesis in the first place and our re-genesis that we call regeneration. Worship is why there is church, the assembly of the Redeemed, in the first place. Every Christian church in every country across the world in every generation exists to worship God first, not second; not tacking worship at the end of our service as an afterthought, but rather to worship God primarily, with everything else coming in second, at best. Worshiping God is our first call.*” — A. W. Tozer. *The Purpose of Man.*

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Words Fitly Spoken

BY MARK WHITE

Of the many word pictures painted in the book of Proverbs, few are as impressive as the one in Proverbs 25:11: *“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.”* (NKJV). This sentence is not a stated commandment, but the reader is impressed with the advantages of saying the right words at just the right time. Verbal speech contains more than one element, for we rely upon words, tone of voice and even physical or visual indicators to convey our messages. Three elements are vividly presented in this one verse alone. The correct words, the correct voice and the correct effect.

The Correct Words

Because the Word became flesh, we are taught to re-spect Him as the Word—the one Who has the words of eternal life (Jn. 6:68). All that we say should mirror the purity and integrity of His words. David wrote, *“May the words of my mouth ... be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer”* (Psa. 19:14).

Paul’s instructions to Timothy stressed the importance of choosing the right word instead of the wrong one. He identified to Timothy *“words of faith”* (1 Tim. 4:6) *“wholesome words”* (6:3) and *“sound words”* (2 Tim. 1:13). Simultaneously, Paul warned his student of the dangers inherent in *“idle talk”* (1 Tim. 1:6-7) and *“profane and idle babblings”* (6:20; 2 Tim. 2:16). He also insisted that Timothy be *“an example to the believers in word ...”* (1 Tim. 4:12).

The Apostle’s emphasis in these two letters repeats the earlier warning of Jesus: *“I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”* (Matt. 12:36-37).

In selecting words for our speech or our written communications, we must be very careful. Well-known American author Mark Twain once observed: *“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between the lightning and the lightning bug.”* As we can see, that difference is huge!

The correct word conveys a depth of feeling, concern and empathy. In speaking of our faith and hope, we must present the comfort we find in both and develop the desire to assist others in the search for their own faith and hope.

The Correct Voice

Solomon said that the right words must be *“fitly spoken.”* Words themselves must not only be carefully selected, but a voice that is stringent, harsh, bitter, or angry will not receive the hearing we desire.

We should be impressed with what a great listener Jesus was. He listened compassionately, even sorrowfully as people spoke to Him. Jesus was moved by the human conditions He encountered. When He spoke to people, it was with a voice assuring those whom He addressed that He cared for each of them. To the woman caught in adultery, His voice and words must have given her hope for a better future. *“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more”* (Jn. 8:11). In contrast to her hypocritical accusers, Jesus spoke in such a way that proved He cared about what happened to this sinful woman.

To the woman compelled by her years of suffering and misery to press through the crowd in order to touch the hem of Jesus’ garment, He said: *“Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace”* (Lk. 8:48). Such tender and comforting

words as *“Daughter,”* *“good cheer,”* *“well”* and *“peace”* tell us Jesus chose just the right words and that He used the correct voice to articulate them. His voice was filled with compassion.

When Paul detailed how Christians should behave themselves, he included how we are to speak: *“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one”* (Col. 4:6). Speaking with *“grace”* certainly describes the kind of voice we are to have. *“Seasoned with salt”* emphasizes the combination of words and voice tempered by the occasion or need of the moment.

In our speech, tone of voice is truly revealing. We hear the heart being expressed in the sounds of the message. In written communication, we declare the voice by the choice and organization of our words. When Paul wrote his final message to Timothy, he conveyed his emotional response to his final days on Earth by expressing his heartfelt desire to see Timothy once more: *“Be diligent to come to me quickly”* (2 Tim. 4:9). No one could doubt the strong feelings being expressed there. Again, Paul said, *“Do your best to come before winter”* (2 Tim. 4:21). There was an urgent feeling being expressed. Timothy could not have helped but see in these words Paul’s love and appreciation for him. The right voice conveys our affection.

The Correct Effect

We know words have effect. We know that tone sets a mood. Solomon completed his description of the correct word and the correct voice by declaring they are *“like apples of gold in settings of silver.”* This is a picture of a good effect, a beautiful sight to behold, or beneficial words to hear. Solomon used two exceedingly precious metals (gold and silver) to paint the image of words making a good impression. To admire the loveliness of this picture means it has had good effect on our sensibilities.

Jesus often made the right impression on those who heard His chosen words and the way He used them. At the Nazareth synagogue, *“He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips”* (Lk. 4:21-22). He also chose His words carefully when stern rebuke was needed, hoping repentance would result from His words (Matt. 23:1-39). The Pharisees may not have thought Jesus spoke very graciously to them, but the Lord’s words were just exactly what they needed to hear at that moment. Words cannot always be sweet. Some may have the bitterness of a medicine about them and may be less enjoyable than words dripping with honey, but they are beneficial for us nonetheless. Paul encountered a less than receptive reaction from the Galatian churches with his letter to them. He asked, *“So have I become your enemy by tell-ing you the truth?”* (Gal. 4:16, NASB). He wished to be able to *“change my tone”* (Gal. 4:20), but the Galatians were *“quickly deserting Him who called you ... for a different gospel”* (Gal. 1:6). His truthful words had to have some bite in order to divert them from the disaster they were courting.

Today, Christians are tasked with choosing the correct word or words by which we communicate the gospel. We also have a responsibility to select the right voice so that we might either persuade or console those who hear our words. Finally, we will determine whether those who hear us go away with the correct impression made on their hearts.