

“You Are Known By How You Speak”

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Text: Judges 12:1-6

**Theme: To encourage proper speech on the part of
the Christian.**

Introduction:

1. We live in a very talkative society
 - a. People in person
 - b. Radios, Tvs, etc.
 - c. Some people talk too much!
2. A common proverb: “You can’t believe everything you hear.”
3. We hear conflicting reports and stories.
 - a. We just do not know what to believe and what not to believe.
 - b. Must make decisions.
 - 1) As to what to believe and accept.
 - 2) And what not to believe and accept.
 - c. We will be known by how and what we speak.

Discussion:

- I. The Ephramites were given away by their speech.
 - A. Forty-two thousand of them were slain when they could not pronounce “shibboleth.” (cf. me “eastern”).
 - B. It started over a feud they had had with Jephthah.
 1. Jephthah, 9th Judge (Savior, Deliverer) of the nation.

- a. Raised up by God to deliver the nation out of the hands of the Ammonites
 - b. But he did not invite the Ephraimites to assist him, and this made them very angry.
 2. Jephthah sharply rebuked them for their actions.
 - a. This was not the first time that they had done this.
 - b. They had done the same thing to Gideon when he fought the Midianites.
 - 1) Gideon used a little smooth persuasion to get their wrath calmed - Judges 8.
 - 2) But Jephthah was harsh with them, undoubtedly knowing of their previous actions and how they probably did not really want to fight anyway.
 - C. Jephthah and the Gileadites rose up and fought the Ephraimites.
 1. The Gileadites took the passage and did not allow passage to the Ephraimites.
 2. Shibboleth - Sibboleth.
 3. Their language identified them.
- II. Today, we are known by how we speak.
- A. Illustrations
 1. Dialects of different sections of the country.
 - a. Southerners
 - b. "Yankees"
 2. Even preachers from different schools.
 - B. We will not be known as children of God if we use our tongues in a loose manner.
 1. Matthew 26:73,74 - Peter had to curse his way out of being known as one of Jesus' followers.
 2. Sound speech is unable to be opposed by those who would accuse us of being evil - Titus 2:8.
 - C. On the other hand, we can so speak as to let people know that we are the true messengers of God.
 1. Speaking as the oracles of God - I Peter 4:11.
 - a. "Speak where the Bible speaks, remain silent where the Bible is silent."
 - b. "Call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways."
 - c. The Restoration Movement.

2. Speaking the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15.

III. Not only are we known by how we speak, but the message that we speak is known by how it is spoken.

- A. Religious joking needs to be controlled lest people think Christianity is nothing more than a joke.
 1. II Timothy 2:16.
 2. Obviously, Christ is no joke.
- B. Our message needs to be presented in such a way that it can be easily understood by those who are seeking the truth.
 1. I Corinthians 14:19.
 2. Of course, the finite mind will have trouble from time to time comprehending the infinite
 - a. Peter said Paul wrote some things hard to be understood.
 - b. But the basic Bible message is simple and clear.
 - 1) There is one Savior - Jesus is the only way - John 14:6; Acts 4:12.
 - 2) There is one body of the saved - I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 5.
 - 3) There is one way to be saved - the plan of salvation - Acts 22:16.

Conclusion:

1. Be careful what you say, people are listening.
2. John 10:1-5 - We must give the message of Jesus and make it clear that it is his so those who seek to follow him will recognize his call. 3. Jesus is calling, do you hear him, will you follow him?
 - a. John 8:24.
 - b. Luke 13:3.
 - c. Matthew 10:32,33.
 - d. Mark 16:16.

Invitation: