

Open Your Mouth

Ephesians 6:19-20

When I was growing up my Dad used to tell us to open our mouths when we speak. He was saying that he wanted us to be heard and understood. The same is true of God with us today. He wants us to "open our mouths when we speak" – He wants us to be heard and understood.

A little girl, while traveling with her mother, made the acquaintance of an aged man, through his little granddaughter. The child said to her new friend, "I got a grandpa; and he's a good man, and loves Jesus. Don't you love Jesus?" That simple question led the aged man, who was a skeptic, to give his heart to Christ. "No one," said he, "ever took that much interest in me before, to ask the simple question that the child put to me; and I am now in my eighty-third year."

There is a good deal said about the Bible that doesn't matter when it comes to the salvation of the lost. The question is, are we speaking out about the right message?

I. THERE NEEDS TO BE A MESSAGE FROM GOD – "THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN UNTO ME"

A. The word "utterance" (λόγος) is speaking of a word, or message coming from God.

Proverbs 29:18

¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

1 Samuel 3:1

¹ And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

Amos 8:11

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

Hosea 4:1

¹ Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

B. The Apostle Paul was asking for prayer that he might receive something from God that he could give to the people. In the context of this verse he is speaking more of boldness in being a witness for Christ among the lost rather than having a message for the church.

II. THAT MESSAGE NEEDS TO BE GIVEN BOLDLY, CLEARLY, BLUNTLY – "THAT I MAY OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY"

A. The word for "boldly" (παρρησία) is one that means to speak with frankness, bluntly, without any mixture of parable or figures of speech - straight forward.

B. That is how we are to give the very important truths of God's Word (especially the simple gospel) – frankly, bluntly, clearly.

2 Corinthians 3:12

¹² Seeing then that we have such hope, we use **great plainness of speech**:

III. THERE MUST BE A PURPOSE FOR THE MESSAGE – "TO MAKE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL"

A. *"To make known the mystery" – that is the purpose of the book of Ephesians – to make understandable the mystery (something hidden before and is now made clear) of the church to the believers. His purpose in life was to make known the mystery (something previously hidden) of the gospel, of salvation, to the lost.*

B. *"Of the gospel" - the gospel was never too far from the thoughts of the Apostle Paul. It is vital that we keep in mind the purpose of the message of the gospel – to save sinners.*

Colossians 1:26–27

²⁶ Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

²⁷ To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Dr. Howard A. Kelly had a unique and effective way of "witnessing". He was never seen in public without a beautiful pink rose in his lapel. This practice gave him many opportunities to witness about his relationship

with the Lord Jesus. Someone meeting him on the street might remark, "That's a lovely rose, Dr. Kelly." "Yes, it is," he would reply. "Actually, it's a 'Christian rose!'"

"Why do you call it that?" he would be asked. The well-known physician would then turn back his lapel and display a tiny water bottle which held the stem of the flower and kept it fresh and sweet.

"It's a 'Christian rose,'" he would explain, "because it has a hidden source of life and beauty. When our Savior pardons our sins, He also unites us with Himself and thereby nourishes and strengthens us. He becomes the secret reservoir of our joy, and any fragrance of testimony we exhibit to the world comes from Him."

IV. THERE WILL BE OPPOSITION TO THE MESSAGE – "FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN BONDS"

A. We can be certain that the message we give will draw opposition. It did for the Apostle Paul.

B. He says here that he was an ambassador.

1. An ambassador is from another country

[Philippians 3:20](#)

²⁰ For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

2. An ambassador carries a message

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³ But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

3. An ambassador receives his power or authority from his king

Ephesians 6:10

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

4. An ambassador must be in contact with his king daily or constantly (our text verses)
5. An ambassador is only a visitor in a foreign country and will someday, although he knows not when, be called home

Hebrews 11:13-16

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

¹⁴ For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

¹⁵ And truly, if they had been mindful of that

country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

¹⁶ But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

C. The words "In bonds" is in reference to the fact that he was in prison, bound to a guard. Even when we are under attack from the opposition, and even if we get captured by the enemy, we are to be the right kind of ambassadors.

V. THERE IS A DUTY UPON THE MESSENGER – "THAT THEREIN I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK"

A. "Therein" refers to his imprisonment. He was human just as we are. He was prone to discouragement and depression from the battle, just as we are. He even had to pray for the ability to speak with boldness, as we should.

B. Then the words "as I ought to speak" are used. It speaks of duty. It doesn't matter where we are, our duty is to be a witness of the Gospel of Christ.

[Colossians 4:3-4](#)

³ Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

⁴ That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

[1 Thessalonians 2:2](#)

² But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

Conclusion: In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Alexander Whyte pastored a large church in Edinburgh. During that time, a salesman by the name of Rigby would travel to Edinburgh regularly just to hear him preach. He would often invite other businessmen to accompany him to the services. One Sunday morning he asked a fellow traveler to go to church with him. Reluctantly, the man said yes. When he heard Whyte's message, he was so impressed that he returned with Rigby to the evening meeting. As the preacher spoke, the man trusted Christ as his Savior. The next morning, as Rigby walked by the home of Pastor Whyte, he felt impressed to stop and tell him how his message had affected the other man's life. When Whyte learned that his caller's name was Rigby, he exclaimed, "You're the man I've wanted to see for years!" He went to his study and returned with a bundle of letters. Alexander Whyte read Rigby some excerpts -- all telling of changed lives. They were men Rigby had brought to hear the gospel. Like the Samaritans who had been led to Jesus by the woman at the well, these men "believed in Him because of the word" of Rigby.

Could the same be said of you? Do you open your mouth and speak? Do you have anything to say?