

The Power of Words

- "Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

- President Abraham Lincoln

The Power of Words

- “I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia son of former slave’s and sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King

- Does our Speech Reflect Christ?

We are Bibles?

**BE CAREFUL HOW
YOU LIVE; YOU WILL
BE THE ONLY BIBLE
SOME PEOPLE EVER
READ.**

QUOTEHD.COM

William J. Toms

Of one hundred men,
one will read the
Bible; the
ninety-nine will read
the Christian.

D.L. Moody

meetville.com

Taming the Tongue

- ⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.
¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. James 3: 9-10

Christians- Imitators of Christ

- As Christians, we are called to imitate Christ in our actions and words.
- People should come to know God through our example.



HOW JESUS TALKED WITH PEOPLE



Conversations with Jesus

- Through conversations with Jesus, people learned:
- Jesus was the Son Of God.
- What our Heavenly Father is like. (Parables)
- Commands of how we should live our lives.
(Love God above all and love your neighbor)
- Expectations. (Carry your cross)
- Faith will save you.
- When they had the wrong attitude towards God. (Pharisees, Peter)

Characteristics of Christ's Conversations

- Jesus met people where they were.
- Jesus was upfront with people. He did not condemn, but He did not let people off of the hook.
- Jesus spoke with compassion.



Jesus Met People Where They Were

- One of the best examples of meeting people where they were was Jesus' use of parables. Jesus used parables that contained everyday images His audience could relate to.
(Luke 15: 11-32: Parable of the Lost Son)
- Jesus knew who was talking with and listened to their thoughts. He let them express their ideas.
(Matt 16:15-16: Jesus asks his apostles who they thought He was.)
- Jesus knew the people that needed Him the most and made sure He talked with them.
(Luke 19: 1-10: Zacchaeus the Tax Collector)

The Healing at the Pool

- Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.
- ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”
- ⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”
- ⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. John 5: 1-9

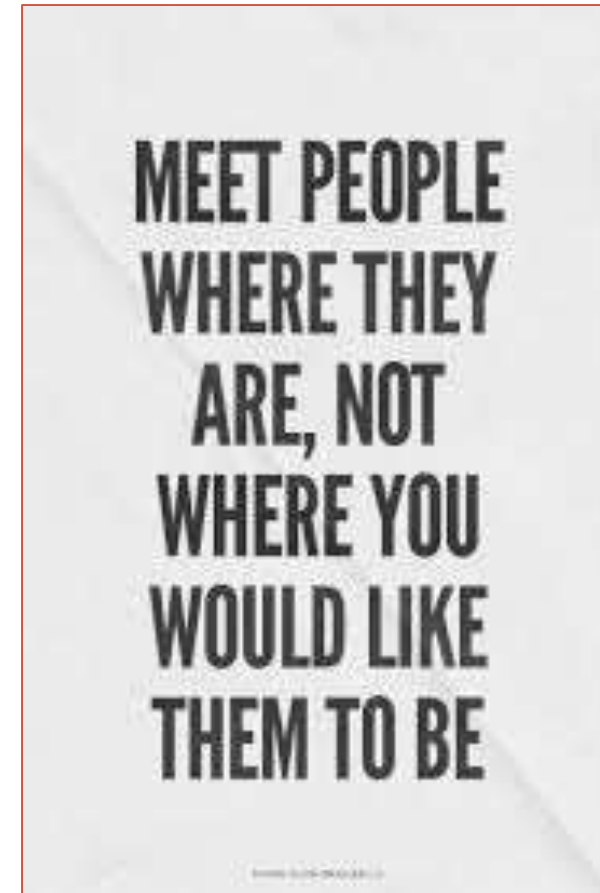
The Healing at the Pool

- Jesus could have told the man the **water was not going to heal him.**
- Jesus knew what the man believed and showed him respect by letting him share his frustrations.



Application for Us

- When we talk about our faith or are trying to help someone learn about God, we need to know our audience and the level of faith and knowledge they already have.
- Listen to others' thoughts and beliefs.

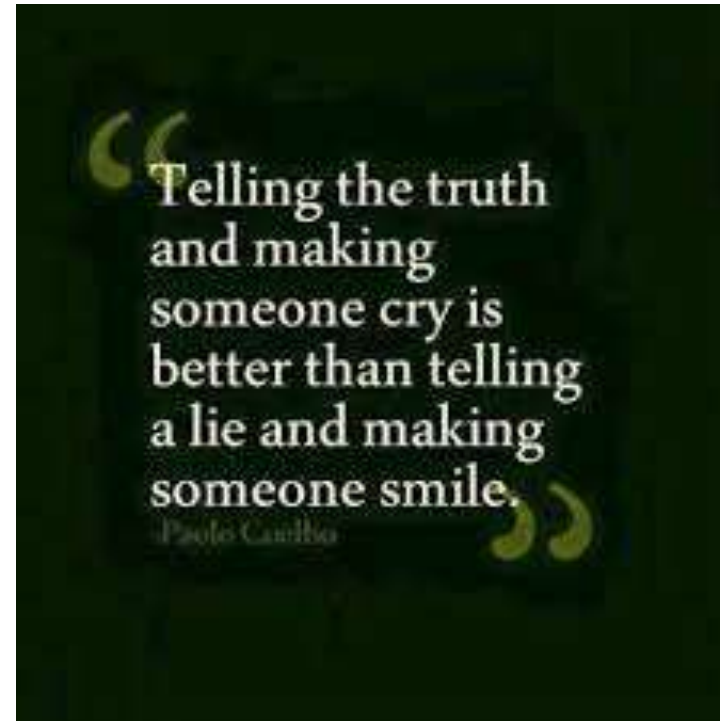


Jesus was upfront with people.

- Jesus' goal was to bring people to God.
- He was always honest and upfront.
- Jesus let people know when they were doing wrong in hopes they would leave their sinful ways.
- At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"
- ¹¹ "No one, sir," she said.
- "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."
- John 8: 9-11
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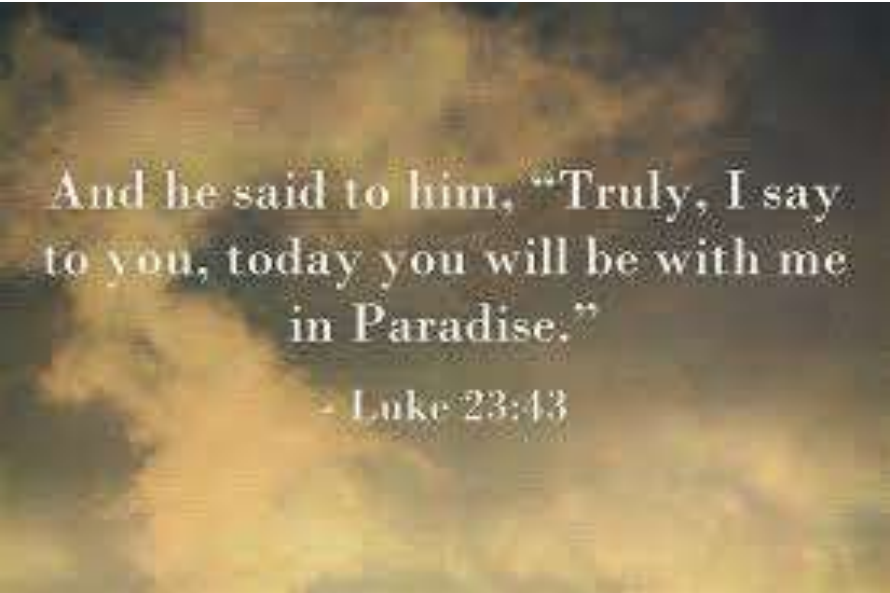
Application for Us

- People want to know where they stand.
- Telling someone they sinned is tough because we all sin.
- We need to let them know we care about them and want to work together with them to help each other to resist temptation.



Jesus showed compassion through His words.

- Jesus showed compassion for His people.
- Comforting Martha and Mary
- Healing Miracles
- Welcoming the Good Thief into Paradise



And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- Luke 23:43

Jesus, Mary and John

- ²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. John 19: 25-27



Application for Us

- Jesus showed compassion for Mary and John while He was suffering on the cross.
- Even in His suffering, Jesus tended to others' needs.
- We need to realize that people do not want to be struggling or suffering.
- We have the opportunity to help someone in need. We need to show compassion for our neighbor as Christ would.

Conclusion

- ⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8
- Pray for wisdom when speaking with others.
- Pray for patience and understanding.
- Strive to be compassionate.
- Pray that our conversations with others glorify God and bring them closer to Him.