

John 8:43

Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

You have probably heard the saying that God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we talk, which is true. Yet we sometimes spend so much time talking that we have no idea what others are saying. Haven't you ever spent time concentrating on what you will say or respond to someone, so much so that you have no idea what they just said. And I think we do this because we think that what we have to say is soooooo important and the world will just crumble (Or at least the person we are talking to will crumble) unless we get those words of wisdom out of our mouth.

But we even do it on social media. We read something and are quick to respond that sometimes people look like fools with some of their responses, because either it's totally wrong, or has nothing to do with what was posted.

What about prayer? We spend so much time talking and asking, or telling God what we need, or what to do, that we forget to stop and listen to His answers. If you stop long enough to think about it, what's more important, what you say to God, or what God says to you?

I have to wonder if James, Jesus' half brother, learned the concept of being slow to speak and quick to listen from his big brother Jesus?

† **James 1:19 (NLT2)** *Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.*

Maybe people think you are a fool or just look down on you because you talk with many words yet say nothing. Here is a cure for that.

† **Proverbs 17:28 (NLT2)** *Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.*

In today's devotional verse, it all started out with:

† **John 8:31** *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."*

Notice it said this to, "those Jews who believed Him" yet if you read the rest of chapter 8 you read of these same Jews who believed Jesus, now starting to argue with Jesus, so much so that by the end of the chapter it says that:

† **John 8:59** *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by*

And why did they go from believing Jesus to wanting to stone Jesus? Because they wanted to be right, and they were not listening to what Jesus was saying. We know this because they go on to argue with Jesus, so He says, ***“Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.”***

This can happen when we share Jesus with others. You have probably experienced it when you share Jesus with your friends, family and coworkers. It seems they really didn't want to hear about Jesus, instead they wanted to argue about Jesus, God and the bible. That's why Jesus tells us what to do about those who don't want to listen, but to argue.

† **Matthew 7:6** *Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

So, long story made even longer with many words. Stop and listen to what people say, and be slow to respond, or even look like a genius and say nothing sometimes.

† **Proverbs 17:28 (NLT2)** *Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.*

† **Job 42:3** *You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.*

† **John 3:11 (MSG)** *Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions.*