When Silence Is Not Golden

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INTRODUCTION

- The problem had nothing to do with what Joe Paterno said, but had everything to do with what he did not say.
- All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Or in this case, to say nothing.

1 Yes, Silence Can Be Golden

Proverbs 21:23; James 1:26; Matthew 12:37

- Yes, silence can be golden, and that sometimes too many words, careless words, can hurt.
- He who guards his mouth and tongue guards his life and soul from troubles.
- If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart. This man's religion is worthless.
- Jesus knew when it was time to speak, and he knew when it was time to be silent.

2 Sometimes Silence Can Hurt

1 Samuel 2:22; 1 Samuel 3

- Sometimes a situation calls for speech and not for silence. Silence can hurt you. And sometimes hurt other people.
- For all of Joe Paterno's incredible achievements as a football coach, it all becomes tarnished because of what he did not say.
- But what did God have against the house of Eli? It was his worthless and wicked sons, whom he did not restrain.
- There is a time to speak, and there is a time to be silent, and this is a time for Eli to have spoken.

3 We Cannot Be Silent: Preach the Word

2 Timothy 3

- What do you think is going to be the next big issue that affects the Lord's people? And his response to that was whatever we're not preaching on now.
- We cannot be silent. We need to be extensive in our explanation of what God's will is for us.
- Preach the word and be ready in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, exhort.
- Time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but they're going to want teachers that tell them what they want to hear.

4 Subjects With Which People Will Struggle

1 Timothy 2:9–10; Ephesians 5:24; Mark 3

- Bottom line is you forfeit sobriety, you sin against God.
- We are to adorn ourselves as one as befits one making a claim to godliness, 1 Timothy chapter 2, verses 9 and 10.
- When people are missing assemblies, assembly after assembly, they're saying it's all about me and not about us.
- We must not exalt any relationship of family above what is right and above spiritual family.

5 I Must Be Careful to Only Preach God's Instruction

Nehemiah 8:8; Ephesians 4; 2 Peter 3

- What must be said must be consistent with what the scriptures teach.
- My position that I'm to preach is that immodesty is sinful.
- We've got to allow some room for growth. But as I say that, let me say, you better draw your lines carefully.
- Again, it's what the Lord thinks that matters.

6 Use This Tongue Gloriously

- That little piece of flesh inside our mouths helps us to communicate thoughts.
- It is a testimony to the fact that we are created by a marvelous creator.
- When we speak, may our words be exalted by using it in these ways. And confessing Him in teaching His will.

THE CHALLENGE

Do people regard your speech as that which gives grace to a situation?

MY NOTES