

# (Basics) 41. Jesus' Speech Was Always Loving

by Zac Poonen

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*Jesus' love was shown in His actions, and we can follow His example by dying to ourselves and speaking a right word to others.*

**Duration:** 13:06

**Scripture:** Proverbs 18:21, Isaiah 50:4, Matthew 7:3-5, Luke 6:45, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:18

**Topics:** "Loving Speech", "Holy Spirit"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of love in our speech and how it reveals what is in our hearts. He questions why people belittle and hurt others with their words, suggesting that it may be because they lack the love of Christ. The speaker then highlights Jesus as the perfect example of love, showing how he valued people and had compassion for them. He also emphasizes that the Holy Spirit wants to transform our speech to be like Jesus', but it requires our willingness to allow Him to control our tongues.

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## Transcript

Once again, we want to look at the perfect example of the one perfect man that walked on this earth, Jesus Christ, and to see in Him an example for us to follow, particularly in the area of love. We have seen in previous studies how Jesus' love was shown not in sentimental words, but in the fact that He valued people, He had compassion for people. People were more important to Jesus than material things.

The love of Jesus is seen in the fact that He was willing to die in order to save people from their sin. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. The highest proof of God's love is in this, that He gave His Son to die for us.

Jesus said, greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends. And it was not just physically that Jesus died. Every day in His relationships with people, He died to Himself.

This is the cross that He told us to take up daily. The greatest proof of my love for another is that I am willing to die to myself, to my rights, my reputation, my own interests, in my relationship with that person. Anything less than this is not love.

The world is full of people who seek their own. We're always seeking, how will this benefit me? That's what I meant by using people for one's own ends. True love is totally interested in the other person and

not interested in what I can get out of that other person for myself.

And if we don't cleanse ourselves from this filthiness of the flesh and spirit that there is in all of us, we will never be able to love others with the love of God. We must ask the Holy Spirit to remove from us, to help us to crucify these wrong attitudes, so that we can love people with the love of God. And this is one reason why Jesus was never irritated with people, even if they were crude or stupid or they made mistakes, they may be slow, and they never got on His nerves, they never upset Him.

Their untidiness, their disorderliness, their slowness, their carelessness, it never made Him impatient or irritated. Why do these things that you see in other people irritate you? I'll tell you the reason. It's because you're not willing to die to yourself.

That's the reason. You do not know love. We sing about love, we speak about love, but what is the proof of love? That I'm willing to die.

That when I see something which is slow or disorderly or untidy in that person, I'm willing to die. I must love Him first. You say, but don't you think we should correct Him and set Him right? Yes, by all means.

Jesus also corrected. Why did people accept Jesus' correction and not accept the correction from the Pharisees? Why was it different when Jesus said something, they listened, and when the Pharisees said the same thing, they wouldn't listen? It was because they saw Jesus loved them. And when people see that you love them, they will accept your correction.

It's when we don't love them and we correct them, that we are like the Pharisees. See, if I'm irritated with a person, I'm unfit to correct him. I need to correct myself.

If I'm impatient with people, I'm not ready to correct them. I need to correct my own impatience first. But how many people see that? Do you see that you need to correct your irritation and your impatience and your lack of love before you correct the untidiness and the disorderliness and the carelessness and the slowness of other people? Jesus said, before you see a speck in the other person's eye, you remove the beam from your own eye.

You know, a perfect person can easily bear with imperfect people. Jesus was perfect. That's why even though he lived in a world which was thoroughly imperfect, he could bear with the imperfections of people.

We, who are not at all perfect, we who are so imperfect, why is it we cannot bear with other imperfect people? We are imperfect, they are imperfect. They have to bear with us and we have to bear with them. Why is it we find it so difficult to bear with other imperfect people around us? I'll tell you the reason, my friend.

It's because we are imperfect. The more we press on to perfection, the more we take up the cross and die to ourselves, the more we'll be patient and we will tolerate the mistakes of others. We'll be able to forgive them.

We won't get upset. We won't get irritated. We'll say, what does it matter? Two thousand years from now, it won't make any difference.

This little thing you're getting upset about. You see, you will see things from eternity's viewpoint. You'll see that that person has got to be loved more.

Never mind if you made a mistake. Look at the way some parents get irritated with their children. You think they really love them? Yeah, they love them enough to feed them, clothe them, educate them, sacrifice many things for them.

But when the child does something to cause some inconvenience for the parents, then the parents get upset. In all our relationships, we need to die. It's when we love a person that we can correct that person.

When the beam is taken out of my eye, then I can see clearly to be able to take respect out of the other person's eye. Look at Jesus' love in the way he spoke to people, in his speech. You know, our speech is a great revealer of what is in our hearts.

Jesus said that from the abundance of the heart, the mouth will speak. Whatever is in your heart will come out when you speak. You can't hide it for long.

Why do people belittle others, pass remarks and jokes about other people that hurt them? Why do they do it? Because they are not like Christ. They don't love. I wonder whether they are even born again, such people.

They don't seem to have any sensitivity to saying rude things about other people, to saying things that hurt others. That's sad. They make subtle wounding statements.

You see that sometimes in husbands and wives who say sharp things, stinging remarks to one another. Jesus never did it once. No.

He knew how to rebuke people strongly. He turned around once to Peter and said, Get behind me, Satan. But he didn't say that in irritation.

He didn't say that in anger. He said it to help Peter to see how in the statement that Peter had made at that time to Jesus to avoid the cross, that is satanic. God wanted Jesus to go to the cross.

And here was Satan trying to stop Jesus from going to the cross through Peter. And to help Peter to see the seriousness of that, he said that's satanic. But otherwise, he would never hurt people.

He never made any subtle wounding statements to anyone. He never discussed the weaknesses of the disciples behind their backs. You know that? Isn't it amazing that in all the three years that his disciples were with him, he never discussed even Judas Iscariot with all the other eleven disciples.

He never exposed Judas in all those three years. And I'll tell you the proof of that. If Jesus had been discussing the weaknesses of Judas Iscariot with all the other eleven disciples behind Judas' back, then at the last supper, when Jesus said, one of you is going to betray me, everybody would have known.

Yeah, yeah, we know that. Jesus has already spoken to us about Judas. Everybody has said, we know who that is.

But none of them knew. They all said, Lord, is it I? How is it none of them knew? It proves that Jesus never discussed even Judas Iscariot. Jesus was not a backbiter.

Jesus was not a gossiper. A lot of believers are gossipers. A lot of believers are backbiters.

You know why? They haven't seen the glory of God. They haven't seen the goodness and the love of God in Jesus Christ. They talk about being filled with the Spirit and having supernatural experiences and praising and shouting God, but they haven't been freed from backbiting and gossiping.

We need to see the glory of Jesus, then only we can be like Him. The Holy Spirit wants to show us how Jesus lived and then says, now let me make you like Him. He doesn't just say, be like Him.

He says, let me make you like Him. Isn't that good? Supposing the Holy Spirit just showed me the glory of Jesus and said, be like Him. I'd just give up in discouragement.

I'd say, Lord, I can't. But that's not what the Holy Spirit says. The Holy Spirit shows us the beauty of Jesus and the way He spoke and then says to us, now my son, my daughter, will you allow me to make your speech also like that? Pure, good, loving.

Will you let me control your tongue? Will you let me control your speech from today onwards? This is the fullness of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is self-control. We can be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we never hurt anybody with our words or any such thing.

He leads us along the path of death to ourselves. On the other hand, Jesus used His tongue in a positive way to encourage people, to correct people. He made His tongue an instrument of life in God's hands.

We read a wonderful verse in Isaiah chapter 50 and verse 4 where it says concerning Jesus' tongue. It's an amazing word. It says there, you have given me the tongue of a disciple so that I can know how to speak a right word to a weary person.

Just think if you could have a ministry like that. You don't have to be a preacher. You may never stand in a pulpit.

But just to have the right word for weary people. Do you know how many weary people come across your path every day? How many people do you think you meet in a day? In your office? In your neighborhood? There must be at least some. And some of them are weary.

And do you have a word to encourage them? Or do you gossip, backbite, discuss politics and the weather and they remain with their heaviness? God wants you to use your tongue. God wants to use your tongue to speak a word of encouragement. And sometimes a word of correction too.

Jesus used His tongue also as a sword to cut down the proud and the haughty. Think of how the Roman centurion must have been encouraged when Jesus said, I've never seen such great faith. Or the Syrophenician woman, when Jesus praised her for her faith.

You read that in Matthew 8 and Matthew 15. Think of that sinful woman in the house of Simon the leper in Luke chapter 7 who was encouraged when Jesus praised her for washing His feet. Or Mary of Bethany who was praised for her sacrificial offering.

They would never have forgotten these words of Jesus. Think of how Peter was strengthened when Jesus said, I'm going to pray for you. Just a few words.

What strength. Many people must have heard words like these from Jesus' lips. And they can come from your lips too if you ask the Holy Spirit to give you the love of God in your heart for people.

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