

### Week Four: Vision of a Good Helper Part 3

#### Consider Jesus and the source of His words.

Jesus spoke what the Father taught Him to speak (John 8:28). He spoke the things which He had seen with His Father (John 8:38). He spoke what the Father had commanded Him to speak (John 12:49). He spoke from the union He had with His Father who was abiding in Him (John 14:10).

Jesus teaches us that we speak from our nature and we take after our Father in this (John 8:38-47). Jesus' first disciples were to receive the Holy Spirit who would speak on behalf of the Father and the Son (16:13-15). In another place Jesus assures His disciples that it is the Father's will to speak through them by His Holy Spirit (Matt. 10:18-19; Mark 13:11).

The way we learn to speak from our Father is by spending time with Him, hearing His voice, getting to know Him, what He is like, what He does, how He responds to people throughout Scripture, etc. God our Father intends that our words would be informed by our abiding in Christ and increasingly reflect Him and His intentions in our words of counsel to one another.

***How have your words been affected by your relationship with Christ (practical union with Him in this moment) either negatively or positively?***

#### What does SPEAK look like in helpful relationships?

##### SPEAK

"Speak involves bringing God's truth to bear on this person in this situation. To do this you need to ask, 'What does God want this person to see that she doesn't see? How can I help her see it?...It means helping your friend see her life clearly. For lasting change to take place, your friend must see herself in the mirror of God's Word. She also needs to see God and the resources for change that he has provided in Christ' (*Instruments*, p. 111-112).

1. SPEAK is less about us making pronouncements in one another's lives and more about us helping one another see what God wants us to see. Our words help **illumine** the truth for a person so that they see themselves, their situation, God, others, and what actually needs to change more clearly.
2. Personal Ministry of the Word Emphasis: *This* person in *This* situation with *This* experience.
  - Words have meaning only in their context. When we speak into one another's lives we want to aim for our words being fitting for this occasion, fitting for this context, fitting for this person we are speaking with.
  - Speaking too quickly, speaking before we understand people can be counter-productive or even destructive to God's purposes in this person's life. "everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger..." (James 1:19). This exhortation serves to make us cautious but not paralyzed with our ability to speak. Our words are to ever increasingly reflect the wisdom of our Father, by our union with Christ, and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

***How have you experienced being on the receiving end of grenade lobbing truth or a more patient, intelligent, humble spokesperson of the truth?***

**How do we use our words? We Confront. We Comfort.**

1. SPEAK is *motivated* by LOVE and *informed* by KNOW.
2. We refuse to condemn in our confrontation. We refuse to condone in our comfort.
3. To SPEAK is to confront many times because we are not all that God has for us to be in Christ yet. ***Confrontation – Truth being brought to bear on this person in this situation in pursuit of the change God is calling for.***
  - “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). **Reproof and correction**, words of confrontation, imply something is amiss that needs to be addressed by the truth. We know the Word of God is the truth to come to bear on the areas of our thoughts and lives that are amiss.
  - “It is a sweet grace when we are surrounded by people who love us enough to confront us—who are unwilling to let us stay lost, blind, confused, rebellious, and wandering away. It is a sign of God’s covenant faithfulness when he sends people to help us see and repent” (*Instruments*, p. 236-237).
4. To SPEAK is to bring comfort from the Gospel. ***Comfort – Truth being brought to bear on this person in this situation in pursuit of faith, hope, encouragement, and strength in Christ etc.***
5. We SPEAK to people who are both **sinners and sufferers**. Our words are to be informed by that reality and spoken accordingly. As sinners and sufferers we need teaching, confrontation, rebuke, correction, and training in righteousness among other things. We also need comfort, hope, peace, help, and encouragement. We don’t want to be like the Pharisees piling up huge burdens on the backs of people all the while not willing to lift even a finger to help.
6. We SPEAK to people aiming at transformation at a **heart level** and we are not preoccupied with sin at a behavioral level. We care about behavior but we seek for heart change that results in behavior changes.

***Do you tend to be more of a confronter or a comforter in your relationships with people? Which aspect comes harder for you?***

***What will you take away today from this session on SPEAK that you will seek to grow in and implement?***

***How will you not forget and stay focused and accountable for that?***