

2009ADVENT#3 OPEN YOUR MOUTH –ANGELS

Luke 2:8-15

On this Advent series of “Open Before Christmas:

We have been encouraged to “Open Our Ears”

To hear God’s word in our homes and churches.

To open our ears to the songs of the season,

To hear the bells ring for the needy.

Last week we were encouraged to “Open our Eyes”

To see God plan, to enjoy the lights of Christmas.

To see the needs of others around us.

Today we are asked to “Open Our Mouths”

To speak of Angels singing,

of God love toward us.

A critic of the Christian faith once asked me,

"How many of angels can dance on the head of a pin?"

Now I would have like to have said,

"More than your small sized brain could ever comprehend!"

Needless to say you don’t win member that way.

Our mouth can be our undoing

A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul. Proverbs 18:7

I believe a better question to ask however, would be

"How many angels in heaven sang

"Glory to God in the highest,"

on the day that Christ was born?

I can answer that one with confidence — "all of them!"

Why do we have so much trouble with our mouth

In saying too little or saying too much,

Why do more angry, biting, sarcastic words come out of our mouth,

Than words of healing, comfort, and encouragement?

Who of us here does not wish even in the past 24 hours,

that we could take back something we said?

Delete it from your facebook,

Retweet it from your blog.

Or what have you said that you would

Like to say again?

By the way did you know that a woman's vocal cords are shorter

than a man's so she can actually speak with less effort than he can.

Shorter vocal cords not only cause a woman's voice to be highly pitched,

but also require less air to become agitated, making it possible for her

to talk more with less energy expended.

Now its interesting that all the angels depicted in the Bible are male.

Maybe that why there are no long dialogues with them.

No, the real reason is that

I. ANGELS SPEAK ONLY WHAT THEY ARE TOLD.

The angels in today’s scripture were sent by God to say:

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring

you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:10

They speak only what they are told.

Angels are not human beings,

They are a special order created by God,

Created to do his bidding.

They are not extraordinary humans who have died

and gone to heaven and then somehow been recycled back

to earth like the TV series, *Touched By An Angel* would have you believe.

They are ministering messengers sent to us.

To do God's bidding to sing his praise,

And to speak God's word.

Praise the Lords, you his angels you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. (Psalm. 103:20-21).

Angels only speak the words they are given.

If they spoke what they wanted or

If they did what they wanted

Would they be God's ministering servants?

Take Dave our media man up in the booth,

The media people don't speak or project what they want to say.

Their job is to project what I have set up for this message.

If they decided to show their own slides

I could lose control of the service.

There might be nothing wrong with the pictures,

They might be quite good, They might even entertain you.

Cute animals, Funny incidents.

But have no connection to the sermon.

Dave puts this all together and watches over it to guard what is going to be shown.

Hopes computer don't crash,

And He does it for all four services.

He may have others run the computers,

But the projection is under his control.

Most of the time.

Slide.....Hey Dave bring it back.

The Psalmist say:

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. Psalm 91:11

Maybe you have been ministered too by an angel.

Have you been afraid and suddenly felt the presence of God's spirit?

Have you been facing a surgery, a Dr. report, a difficult treatment, or test,

Suddenly you sensed a spirit of comfort.

And for some of you have probably even seen an angel,

But you didn't know it.

Keep on loving one another. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Heb 13:1-2

The shepherds knew it was angels

And they saw and heard them speak.

**"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ¹⁵ the Lord.
¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

Not only did they see and hear the Angel,
 But they saw the heavens opened,

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Luke 2:13

And they heard a great company of the heavenly host.
 Speaking and singing what God had directed.

**¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."
 Luke 2:13-14**

Millions of words have been written about this pronouncement

But what these Jewish shepherds heard was ,

A promised fulfilled, a messiah has come,

And thus the fulfillment of over 400 prophecies,

the one whom Isaiah declared would be called,

"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6),

the redeemer of the world, was born.

They had come to announce him.

I. ANGELS SPEAK ONLY WHAT THEY ARE TOLD.

II. HUMANS SPEAK WHEN THEY HAVE NOTHING TO SAY

We are the only creatures created who speak on our own accord.

God gave us a mouth to speak.

The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Exodus 4:11

The problem lies in who is in control of our mouth?

Believe it or not our mouth is not controlled not by our mind,
 but by our heart.

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45

But we have a problem.

When our heart is out of control our mouth is out of control.

**No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
 James 3:8**

Someone said:

Profanity is a public announcement of stupidity.

Gossip is like soap -- mostly lye!

Don't brag; it isn't the whistle that pulls the train.

What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'"Matthew 15:11

If someone paid you 50 cents for every kind word you said about people,
 and collected twenty five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?

I have had a person say:
 I don't know what comes over me
 I speak before I think.
 Others say they have a potty mouth.
 We all know what they mean.
 I have had others say:
 Well I didn't mean to say what I said:
 Yes you did.
 It came right out of your heart.
 The true you.

If you don't like what you say:
 Get your heart checked.

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment. 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy. Proverbs 12:19-20

Billy Graham said: "We're suffering from only one disease in the world. Our basic problem is not a race problem. Our basic problem is not a poverty problem. Our basic problem is not a war problem. Our basic problem is a heart problem. We need to get the heart changed, the heart transformed."

The good news is that our hearts can be changed,
 And our language corrected.

David said:

Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin. Psalm 17:3

David rejoiced in his God

David prayed

Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3

People who slap other and beat on them are abusers.

People who slang others and browbeat them are abusers.

The words of our mouth is the cake we baked.

It is our own making.

A Russian Man was sentenced to be hanged for treason against the Russian czar Nicholas I in December 1825. But the rope broke and the man, bruised and battered, fell to the ground, got up, and said, "In Russia they do not know how to do anything properly, not even how to make a rope." An accident of this sort usually resulted in a pardon, so a messenger was sent to the czar to know his pleasure. Nicholas asked, "What did he say?" "Sire, he said that in Russia they do not even know how to make a rope properly." "Well, let the contrary be proved," said the czar.

That first Christmas night,
 When the messiah was born,
 God didn't trust men to deliver his message,
 He entrusted it to his angels.

Who opened their mouths and said:

¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ^{F5} the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12

III. CHRISTIANS CAN CHOOSE WHAT WE SAY

The Christmas story began with the word of the angels
 But it would have died without the words of the shepherds.
 God needs faithful mouths to speak his word of faith.
 And bring hope to a dying world.

¹⁴But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? ¹⁵And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? Romans 10:14-15

Our world can get sidetracked.
 We can get caught up in life and having everything so politically correct
 We miss what is really true and important.

Flying across Arizona on a clear day a copilot was providing his passengers with a commentary about the landscape and the huge Meteor Crater which is a major tourist attraction in northern Arizona. He said The crater was formed when a lump of nickel and iron, roughly 150 feet in diameter and weighing 300,000 tons, struck the earth 50,000 years ago at about 40,000 miles an hour. The hole measures nearly a mile across and is 570 feet deep." The lady sitting in the plane exclaimed: "Wow, look! It just missed the highway!"

David said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence." Psalm 39:1

Jesus was 'strong in action and in words. Luke 24:19 Moffatt
 Everything he did moved the gospel forward
 And brought the best out of people.

When Handel's great oratorio, *The Messiah* was published, one nobleman complimented the composer on the entertainment that he had given the town. Handel said: "My lord, I should be sorry if I only entertained them. I wish to make them better."

When we hear Handel's *Messiah* we are all better for it.
 And if we are a Christian today we must step up.
 And live our lives so that others are better for it.
 We don't need sky filled with angels.
 And heavenly chorus.
 We have God's word in the Bible to guide us today.
 And his Holy Spirit within us to lead us.

So this advent season. We need to open our mouths.
 And Sing the Christmas carols,
 And share the Christmas memories,
 And taste Christmas goodies,
 And ring Bells,
 And deliver meals

Say "God loves you, and I love you,

And Merry Christmas , for unto you a child is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord.

Will you open your Mouth and share the good news of Christ.

