

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Words express what's on your mind, but your actions say what's in your heart.
—Frank Sonnenberg

There is an old Spanish saying which goes, “Por la boca muere el pez.” Literally, this means “the fish dies by its mouth.” If the fish had kept its mouth shut, he would not have ended up in the frying pan or mounted on a wall.

We can get into a lot of trouble sometimes because we open our big mouths. Truth is, it is more important that we *do* the right thing, than say the right thing. We are defined by what we do, not what we say.

Let's say that a man comes home one day, and his wife, who had arrived from her job only minutes earlier, notices that the expression on his face is grim. He marches past her on his way to the kitchen. He opens a cupboard and slams it shut. He rattles a drawer looking for something. He kicks at the dog. She asks him, “What's the matter?”

“Nothing.”

“How was your day at the office?”

“Fine!”

Do you suppose the wife believes the *words* her husband chooses, or the *behavior* he has acted out since he came home? *The behavior*. The *non-verbal action* will always be believed rather than the verbal when the two are in conflict. Truly, actions do indeed speak louder than words.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young monk to join him on a trip to preach in a nearby town. The monk was honored and readily accepted the invitation. All day, the two monks walked through the streets and alleys of the town and even ventured into the suburbs. They rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people.

At the end of the day, the two headed to a monastery for the night. The young monk was puzzled that Francis had not even once addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the gospel. Greatly disappointed, his young companion finally said to Francis, “I thought we were going into town to preach.”

Francis responded, “Oh, but we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. Many saw us and our behavior was closely watched. It is of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk!”

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: May my life, O God, be a living witness to your love, grace and mercy. Help me to act out the good news so that both my words and my life are in harmony. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*A Joy-filled Baptism of Christ Sunday,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Note*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Genesis 37-39

Monday: Genesis 40-42

Tuesday: Genesis 43-46

Wednesday: Genesis 47-50

Thursday: Matthew 1-4

Friday: Matthew 5-7

Saturday: Psalms 1-3

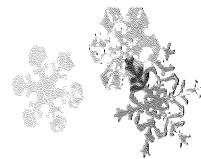
Verse to Remember

Happy are those ... [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. —Psalm 1:1-3

ANAGRAM ADVENTURE!

An *anagram* is a word made of the same letters as another word. In the lists below, find each word's anagram by rearranging the letters in each of these real words to form a new real word. Example: LISTEN = SILENT (SILENT is an anagram of LISTEN).

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|------------------|------------------|
| Master = _____ | Ignores = _____ |
| Generate = _____ | Abroad = _____ |
| Weather = _____ | Diaper = _____ |
| Earnest = _____ | Scared = _____ |
| Glean = _____ | Alerted = _____ |
| Outside = _____ | Gallery = _____ |
| Nerve = _____ | Praised = _____ |
| Direct = _____ | Beard = _____ |
| Priest = _____ | Ideals = _____ |
| Roasting = _____ | Lameness = _____ |
| Reveals = _____ | Lament = _____ |
| Strut = _____ | Decimal = _____ |
| Forest = _____ | Serpents = _____ |
| Resist = _____ | Observe = _____ |
| Grown = _____ | Petals = _____ |



ANAGRAM ADVENTURE: Left column — master=stream; generate=teenager; weather=wreath; earnest=eastern or nearest; glean=angel or angle; outside=tedious; nerve=never; direct=credit; priest=stripe; roasting=organist; reveals=several; strut=trust; forest=softer or foster; resist=sister; grown=wrong. Right column — ignores=regions; abroad=aboard; diaper=repaid; scared=sacred; alerted=treadle, altered or related; gallery=allergy or largely; praised=despair; beard=bread or bared; ideals=ladies; lameness=salesmen; lament=mental or mantle; decimal=medical; serpents=presents; observe=verbose; petals=staple.