

“The Pilgrims Progress”
All Talk

Introduction:

1. For The Last Couple Of Weeks:
 - In Our Journey Through:
 - The Pilgrim’s Progress:
 - We Have Discovered:
 - The Kind Of Fellowship That Is Available:
 - When Christians Join Together:
 - And Share And Bear - As John Fawcett Described:
 - “Our Mutual Woes” And “Our Mutual Burdens!”
2. Well - This Is What Has Been Taking Place:
 - Between Christian & Faithful:
 - After They Caught Up With Each Other:
 - On The Other Side Of:
 - The “Valley Of The Shadow Of Death!”
 - Well - After Faithful:
 - Shared With Christian:
 - Some Of The Unique Trials & Temptations:
 - He Faced Along The Way:
 - They Come Across:
 - Another Pilgrim:
 - Who We Will Meet In Our Reading Tonight:
 - By The Name “Talkative!”
3. And - The Person Who “Talks With Talkative” Is:
 - Faithful!
 - Now - Before We Begin Reading:
 - This Chapter In Our Journey:
 - I Want To Forewarn You That:
 - It Is A Bit Longer And More Tedious:
 - Than Our Other Readings!
 - In Fact - This “Talk” With & About “Talkative”:
 - In Our Edition:
 - Covers 10 Pages:
 - Which We Will Divide In Half:
 - Over The Next Two Weeks!
 - It Is Such A Long Section:
 - That Critics Have Considered It To Be:
 - The Weakest Part:
 - Of Bunyan’s Tale!
 - And - Even Though That May Be The Case!
 - After All - “The Pilgrim’s Progress” Is Not:
 - An Inspired Book:
 - As Our Bibles Are:
 - Even Though It Is Full:
 - Of Scriptural Thoughts And Words!
 - Yet - I Think There Was:
 - A Method To John Bunyan’s Madness:
 - When He Wrote This Part Of The Story!
4. You See - Bunyan Lived & Preached & Wrote:
 - During The Era Of The English Puritans:
 - Who Were Known For Their:
 - Deep & Doctrinal Thinking & Preaching:
 - And Writing!
 - And - You Can Profit Greatly, As I Have:
 - From Reading Them!
 - But - In Their Writings:
 - They Were Also Known For Being:

- Very Detailed And Verbose / Wordy:
 - In Their Writings!
- If You Think:
 - My Outlines Are Detailed:
 - You Should See Some Of Theirs!
- 5. Well - There Is A Danger:
 - In Knowing Much & In Saying Much!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - Ecclesiastes 5:7 - “For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God!”
 - In Other Words:
 - Though Words Matter:
 - Words Are Not All That Matters!
 - And This Is The Point:
 - That, I Think, Bunyan Was Trying To Make:
 - In This Lengthy Account:
 - Of Talkative!
- 6. He Was Addressing:
 - An Important Issue In The Church Of His Day!
 - As John Kelman Once Put It:
 - Bunyan Was “A Puritan Writing About Another Puritan!”
 - Because - Even Though:
 - It Might Have Seemed Like There Was:
 - A Lot Of Fire In The Lengthy Discourses:
 - Written By Some Of His Christian Brethren!
 - There May Not Have Been Enough Heat!
 - Some Critics Think:
 - That Bunyan Had A Particular Person In Mind:
 - Though That Person, Graciously Enough:
 - Has Been Lost To History!
- 7. And So - With That Background:
 - Let’s Begin Reading About:
 - Faithful’s Talk With Talkative!
 - Starting On *Page 45, Paragraph 2:*
 - “*Moreover, I Saw In My Dream, That As They Went On, Faithful, As He Chanced To Look On One Side, Saw A Man Whose Name Is Talkative!*”
 - Read Through *Page 49, Paragraph 3:*
 - “. . . *Whether This Thing Be Set Up In His Heart, House, Or Conversation!*”
 - Now - The First Thing I Thought:
 - When I Read This Part Of The Story Was:
 - That Must Be A Very Wide Path!
 - Since Faithful Was Able To Talk To Both Talkative & Christian:
 - Without The Other Hearing Or Knowing What The Other Was Saying!
 - This Is One Part Of The Story:
 - Where Bunyan Wants You To Rely Upon:
 - Your Own Imagination!
- 8. But - I Think The Point Of This:
 - “Talk With Talkative” Is This:
 - When It Comes To Our Walk:
 - With The Lord:
 - We Need To Beware Of Being “All Talk!”
 - And In The Time We Have Left:
 - I Want To Highlight:
 - Just A Few Things:
 - About This!

* First:

1. **“All Talk” Is Deceptive!**
 - “All Talk” - When It Is Not:

- Backed Up With The Truth:
 - Is Deceptive!
- This Is One Of The Main Things:
 - That Christian Stresses To Faithful:
 - After Faithful Thought Talkative To Be:
 - A Very Bold & Courageous Pilgrim!
 - After All:
 - His Words Of Talkative Sounded Like:
 - The Very Thoughts Of Faithful!
 - And That Was Because:
 - They Were!
 - Did You Sense:
 - The Repetition:
 - That Talkative Kept Using?
- Well - Christian Knew Talkative:
 - From His Former Life - And Knew Three Things:
 - About Talkative That Faithful:
 - Did Not Know!
 - First:
 - His Life Didn't Measure Up:
 - To His Talk!
 - Second:
 - His Life Looked Better From A Distance:
 - Than From Up Close! And:
 - Third:
 - His Witness Before Others:
 - Was Deceptive!
- In His Second Letter:
 - The Apostle Peter Warns Us:
 - About These Kinds Of Deceptive Talkers!
 - In 2 Peter 3:17-18 - He Describes Them In This Way:
 - "These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. / For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error!"
- We Need To Beware:
 - Of Those Who Talk With:
 - "Great Swelling Words" That Can:
 - Deceive You!
 - But Also:
 - We Need To Beware Ourselves:
 - To Not Use Our Words:
 - To Deceive!
 - In Matthew 5:37:
 - Jesus Tells Us:
 - "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil!"
- "All Talk" - When It Is Not:
 - Backed Up With The Truth:
 - Is Deceptive!

* But Then - Second:

2. "All Talk" Is Deadly!

- "All Talk" - When It Is Not:
 - Tamed By The Lord:
 - Is Deadly - To Others!
- In James 3:
 - We See The Importance Of:
 - A Tamed Tongue!

- James 3:1-8 - “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. / 2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. / 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. / 4 Behold also the ships, which though [they be] so great, and [are] driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. / 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! / 6 And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. / 7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: / 8 But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison!”
- In Bunyan’s Tale:
 - “Talkative” Considered Himself To Be:
 - A “Master” Of Everything:
 - Including Spiritual Things!
 - He Was Knowledgeable!
 - He Was Gifted! And:
 - He Was Winsome!
 - And His Speech:
 - Did Not Betray Him!
- We Need To Beware:
 - Of Talk That Comes From:
 - An Untamed Tongue!
 - Because - “All Talk” - When:
 - It Is Not Tamed By The Lord:
 - Can Be Deadly To Others!

* But Then - Third:

3. **“All Talk” Is Dangerous!**

- “All Talk” - When It Does Not Match:
 - Your Walk:
 - Is Dangerous - To You!
- This Was The Real Problem:
 - With Talkative!
 - As Bunyan Wrote In His Marginal Note:
 - “Talkative Talks, But Does Not!”
 - Christian Describes Talkative:
 - In Many Unflattering Ways!
 - Not To Gossip About Him:
 - But To Warn His Brother, Faithful:
 - About Him!
 - Talkative Was One:
 - Who Would “Talk Of Prayer, Of Repentance, Of Faith, And Of The New Birth, But He Knew Only To Talk Of Them!”
 - It Was Not True:
 - Of Him!
- James Also Addresses This:
 - In James 1:19-27:
 - “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: / 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. / 21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. / 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers – or talkers – only, deceiving your own selves. / 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: / 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. / 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. / 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion [is] vain. / 27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [and] to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

- Your Words Matter Very Little:
 - If They Are Not Backed Up By:
 - Your Works!
 - But Only If Those Works:
 - Flow From A Living Faith:
 - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
- We Need To Beware:
 - Of Talk That:
 - Does Not Match A Walk:
 - That Flows From God's Word!
 - Because - That Kind Of Talk:
 - Is Very Dangerous:
 - To You!

Conclusion:

1. This Is Especially The Case:
 - For Those Who Have Been Blessed:
 - To Devote Their Lives:
 - To The Study & To The Sharing:
 - Of God's Word:
 - Through Teaching & Preaching!
 - This Really Hit Home With Me:
 - When I Read The Comments Of:
 - Someone Who Said:
 - Preaching & Teaching About Sacred Things Is A "Spiritually Dangerous Profession!"
 - 2. This Is True!
 - Which Is Why Paul Wrote This In:
 - 1 Corinthians 9:27 - "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway!"
 - He Knew The Importance Of:
 - Applying To His Walk:
 - What He Said In His Talk!
 - 3. But This Is Important For:
 - All Christians!
 - Your Talk Needs To Be:
 - Backed Up With The Truth!
 - Tamed By The Lord! And:
 - Matched With Your Walk!
 - Is That The Case:
 - With Your Tongue & Your Talk Tonight?
 - If Not:
 - Even Though The Tongue:
 - "Can No Man Tame" - Yet:
 - The Lord Can!
 - This Is Why He Saved You!
 - To Change You:
 - From The Inside Out!
 - Confess!
 - Believe!
 - Live & Talk!

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