

The Result

Rachael Martin 3,22,2016

I've always wondered where that phrase "Actions speak louder than words" came from. Over the years, I've agreed with it more and more through the many situations I have encountered. In reading my devotion the other day, the following scripture jumped out at me that Jesus spoke to the crowds about our actions and even in that day, there were many who complained, many who pre-judged well-meaning individuals and yes, even lashed out about Jesus's actions because he ate, drank, and was friends with tax collectors.

However, Jesus says something during His teaching that were words to live by then and much more so, in this day we live in now.

Matthew 11:16-19 - "To what can I compare this generation? It is like children playing a game in the public square. They complain to their friends, ¹⁷ 'We played wedding songs, and you didn't dance, so we played funeral songs, and you didn't mourn.' ¹⁸ For John didn't spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, 'He's possessed by a demon.' ¹⁹ The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results."

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When we have so many questions about who to turn to or relationships in our life or making decisions that could have a big impact on us or our family – look at the result. A tree is just a tree until it starts producing fruit and then you see what kind of tree it was. I could plant an orange tree in the field of lemon trees and no one (except an expert) would know the difference until that fruit started blooming.

So how do we apply this to our lives now? Pray and ask the Lord to show us the results to the questions we have about our situation or relationships. Ask Him what is wisdom in all of this? Sometimes relationships, jobs, finances, economy, family, possessions, the not-so-distant future can become very burdensome. Stress looms over us every day waiting for us to give in and start to be anxious about something that ultimately is out of our hands at some point. We look at things and make assumptions based on what we see right in front of us when sometimes, we have to wait to give an answer and we don't want to wait or we don't want people to think less of us because we don't have an answer.

Jesus was preceded by GREAT men of faith who prepared the way for Him to come, but even when His time came to minister and show Himself mighty to the masses, the people still weren't ready – their eyes had been shut to what truth looked like.

Are you ready? Am I ready?? I was thinking last night.... Lord ... I want to look like wisdom!

If wisdom looked you in the face today, would you acknowledge it even if it felt awkward or knew it would make you stand out? Are you ready to stand opposite of the crowds to stand up for what you know to be truth because you've seen first-hand what the power of God can do in your life and in the lives of your loved ones? Are you ready to believe because everyone else has failed you and you have seen their actions are not getting you anywhere? Are you ready to wait on the Lord to produce the outcome instead of striving to make it happen on your own?

Jesus didn't leave it there, with knowing what is wisdom by our actions. He instead left us with hope in this chapter that when it becomes too much, He's got it. The end result from His action in our lives will produce eternal significant change that will show wisdom beyond our earthly years or comprehension.

Matthew 11:28-30 - Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

Praise the Lord, the result of His actions - His Love - brings wisdom into our lives!

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