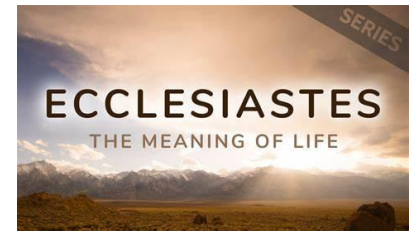


Questions Through Ecclesiastes

Lesson 11: What does it mean that there is a time to be silent and a time to speak?

Ecclesiastes 3:7b



- * A theme often dealt with in Scripture is the idea of life having appropriate times to be silent and times to speak. In wisdom literature, the _____ is portrayed as one who talks too much and always at the wrong time, but the _____ person knows when to be silent and when to speak (Prov. 18:6–7, 10:19, 21:23, 17:28, Ps. 39:1, Amos 5:13, 2 Kings 2: 3, 5).
- * _____ Jesus exemplified the wisdom of _____ when He stood before Pontius Pilate (Matt. 27:11–14). To His followers, Jesus said, (Matt. 12:36–37).
- * James also taught those who genuinely want to be godly examples in the church to learn to control their _____ (James 3:1–12). The apostle Paul stressed the importance of letting our “_____ be full of grace (Col. 4:6).
- * The proper word spoken at the _____ time, “how good it is!” says (Prov. 15:23). Our words contain “the power of life and death,” states (Prov. 18:21). What we say can either _____ lives or _____ them (Prov. 12:6).
- * A time to be silent is sometimes associated with _____ and _____. Often the best comfort to offer a person suffering through a tremendous loss is to sit with him or her in silence (Job 2:11–13).
- * Silence is golden, says the proverbial expression, but there are times when God’s people must speak. The Bible commands us to speak out against _____ (Isa. 1:17; 10:1–3). Believers are not to keep silent about their _____ in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:17–20; 2 Cor. 5:18–20; 1 Peter 3:15).
- * When the Jews faced national annihilation, the brave Queen Esther recognized her God-appointed purpose and time to _____ (Esther 4:12–14).
- * Solomon’s emphasis on “a time to be silent and a time to speak” ought to remind us that it’s generally _____ to keep our mouths shut, let our _____ be few, and learn to _____ our tongues (Eccl. 5:2).
- * Still, we must discern when it’s time to _____ out on the Lord’s behalf (Isa. 58:1) for the glory of God (Jos. 6:16; Ps. 34:1; Luke 19:37–40) and the building up of His church (Eph. 4:29; 5:17–21).