



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!
Helping Developing Christians Grow!
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David's Devotional What You Said!

It was a Sunday morning just like any other Sunday morning, but that day was different. Don't ask me what was different. It just was. Perhaps it was a feeling of despair. Perhaps I was just feeling unnecessarily gloomy. Perhaps it was the extra cheese dip I ate before I went to bed the night before! I guess I just had the "Blahs". (Don't tell me you don't know what the "Blahs" are!)

But then you came up to me. You took my hand in yours. You looked square into my eyes. You told me you appreciated me! WOW! No more "Blahs"! Why did those few chosen words dispel a feeling that was haunting, lingering, waiting to darken me?

Because "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" **Proverbs 15:23**

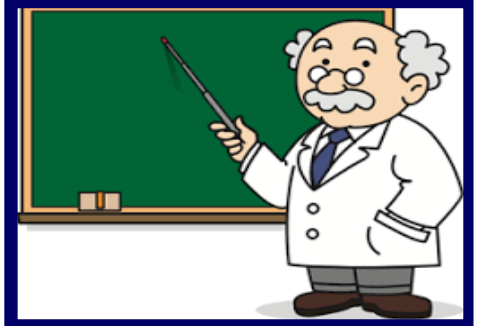
Solomon wrote those words. He was gifted by God with great Wisdom!

When Solomon said that it makes a true DIFFERENCE when you say the right words, he was stating one of his most profound truths! Why go up to someone and say something ugly or critical? It ruins their day (maybe even longer)! You could just as easily had said, "I'm proud of you" or "I'm so glad to see you" or "You look so happy today" or "You make me feel so good"... The list of kind expressions is endless!!!!

What you said this morning made a difference in the hearer's attitude. Think about it. What did you say to your wife, husband, child, or friend? Then we wonder why everyone we meet is so unkind and grouchy!!

Even those who are truly grouchy need a kind word! Try it today! Share a "word spoken in due season" and see just exactly "how good it is!"

Oh how I need to practice this wisdom! Though I can't go back in time and erase or change the words I said, God help me to guard my words today! It's the bes David Conley



An Interesting Quote:

"Watch out for the illusion that using the card isn't really spending."

Randy Alcorn

"Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants."

Matthew 18:23

We have lived with the illusion that our sin "card" will never have to be paid! All of us now have a sin debt we can not pay by ourselves!

By God's grace, Jesus paid our debt for us by dying on the cross!

However, Paul explained an important truth in **Romans 6:1** "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Watch out for the illusion that continuing to sin isn't really putting us in debt!

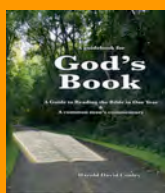
David Conley

DID YOU KNOW?

"A Visit From St. Nicolas" is the famous poem more commonly known to most as "Twas The Night Before Christmas"! Santa's reindeer were named for the first time in that poem: "Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!"

There has been a greater visitation that brought us a greater gift! "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people," **Luke 1:68** "

What Happened? MERRY CHRISTMAS



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Once Upon A Time ...

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1



Christmas Budget

Each year Mama opened a "*Christmas Club*" account at the bank.

Throughout the year she would deposit a few dollars each pay period. At the end of the year she would receive a check from the bank for the amount that she had saved. She would use this money to buy Christmas gifts, food, and maybe a strand of lights for Daddy to hang up on the porch.

Years later, my wife, Debra, decided to do it just a bit differently. She would find bargains throughout the year. Perhaps it was a cup that said, "*World's greatest Dad*", or a tee shirt that said, "*I love you, Mom*". Throughout the year she placed these items in her "*Christmas Box*". It would be an investment of \$2.00 here or \$3.00 there. When they opened up the "*Dollar Tree*" and sold everything for \$1.00, Debra filled up our "*Christmas Box*"! At the end of the year, we would wrap our treasures and present them to our family. Our first Christmas together was 1981. She bought an ornament with that year's date and placed it in her "*Christmas Box*". We were thrilled to hang it on our tree!

As the years went by we were able to budget a little more for Christmas. Instead of getting Daddy a pack of Beechnut chewing tobacco, we were able to get him a whole carton! One Christmas we got him a brand new pair of Liberty overalls! He was so happy to get them, but I think he was just as happy when he opened the pack of Beechnut a few years earlier!

Debra still has her "*Christmas Box*". She had to get a separate one to store the annual ornaments. This year was our 43rd Christmas together. She could decorate the entire tree and half the living room with just the annual ornaments!

The Christmas Budget and the "*Christmas Box*" has gone through changes, but it still remains one of the things that Debra enjoys the most. She learned very early on the lesson from **Acts 20:35** " ... remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

David Conley

Good King Wenceslas



In the early 900s, just 900 years after Jesus was born, Wenceslas was born in Bohemia, in modern Czechoslovakia.

His father, Duke Ratislav, was a Czech ruler. He gave Wenceslas a good education.

When his father died, Wenceslas' mother took over the sate of affairs. She mishandled everything! Wenceslas stepped in to handle the reins. He was only 18 years old!

From the beginning, he proved to be a different sort of king. He sought good relations with the surrounding nations. He took steps to reform the judicial system keeping the power of judges at a point where cases were solved more fairly. He encouraged the building of churches and showed heart-felt concern for the poor. It was reported that he cut firewood for orphans and widows and carried it to them on his own shoulders through the snow!

On September 28th, 929, he was on his way to church when his brother, Boleslav, murdered him! The people of Czechoslovakia still honor Wenceslas today as a national hero.

The Song is actually a poem set to music. The first verse begins the story:

"Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel"

The Song goes on to talk about how Wenceslas helped the poor man and taught the lesson, "*You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing*"!

Remember, Jesus said, "... *Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*" **Matthew 25:10**

Though we may be hated and even abused for trying to do the right thing, let's do it anyway!

David Conley

A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher's wife organized a surprise birthday party for him at the church building. She secretly asked everyone to bring socks as their gift. (*The preacher wore his socks out very fast!*) As he opened each gift, he quickly realized the pattern! Socks, Socks, and more Socks! Each time he opened a gift, he called out "*SOCKS*"!

The crowd cheered! They even got in on the fun by foretelling what the gift would be! They would cheerfully call out "*SOCKS*" before he produced the gift from the gift bag! He reached into one of the bags and the crowd, in unison, screamed "*SOCKS*" as he pulled out a pack of underwear! The crowd erupted! That particular gift giver had missed the point! They hadn't followed instructions! The preacher thought to himself, "*Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.*" **Proverbs 23:12**