

Words Fitly Spoken

Proverbs 25:11

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Much in this life can be elevated to greater than usual heights of nobility, beauty or service by setting them in fitting, or appropriate circumstances. One striking example is the sun, always useful and noble. But, when set in the new light of a morning sky - WOW! What beauty! Nor did the Lord forget late sleepers. He wisely provided them with the equally striking, but different beauty of a sun set in an evening sky.

Solomon illustrated the point with eternal words in Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." The phrase "fitly spoken" has been variously translated "in due season" or "upon its wheels" or "in right circumstances". The fitly spoken word is compared with fruit of gold. Whether the fruit of which Solomon spoke was an apple such as the Golden Delicious or some other fruit more common to that time and place, and whether ornamental fruit made of the precious metal or actual fruit bearing the color of gold, the lesson is the same. Whatever fruit is pictured, it most certainly represents the fact that real fruit can be found in many forms, some good, some bad and some even rotten although usually useful and usually beautiful. But, when its color is just the right golden hue and it is carefully placed in a complimentary setting of silver - WOW!

The Holy Spirit has reminded us through many Bible writers of the potential "rotteness" of our words. Paul warned against slander and abusive speech, and against lying, in Colossians 3:6-9. He said to the Galatians, "If you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another." Galatians 5:15

James 3 elaborates on the difficulty of taming the tongue and the 4th chapter begins an admonition against quarreling. Peter spoke of those who maligned the truth and those who spoke arrogant words of vanity in 2 Peter 2:2 and 18. And there is more.

Here in Proverbs 25:11, in the idea of words fitly spoken, the Spirit holds before us the greatness of our words when thoughtfully and lovingly spoken in the right circumstances. A word of encouragement in the midst of discouragement; a word of hope when all is despair; a word of comfort when sorrow overwhelms; a word of instruction when doubt, confusion or uncertainty reigns; even a word of admonition when a soul is in jeopardy of sin. And, above all, a word of truth in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation is a word fitly spoken.

Apt words are those which flow easily, rolling along as if on chariot wheels, perfectly suited to the circumstances at hand. Yes, words fitly spoken truly are like apples in a silver setting - a thing of unusual beauty.