

SPEAKING DEVILS  
MARK I:34.

This might seem like a strange subject, "Speaking Devils" but strange as it may seem there is so much of significance to it that it needs to be brought to your attention. We are to day meditating through that remarkable first chapter of Mark. This chapter is one of quick action. Straight way which means immediately is used ten times in this one chapter.

The chapter begins with a prophesy concerning John the Baptist coming as the messenger before Jesus. We have an account of John coming and preaching. Jesus then comes to John to be anointed into the priesthood down at the Jordan. Jesus was driven by the Spirit of God into the wilderness where the devil tried to speak through His life but Jesus suffered him not. But the record shows Jesus as the conquering voice on that occasion. In this chapter Jesus begins His wonderful preaching. We pass then to His calling His disciples, that is some of them. Beginning with verse 23 and on to the end of the chapter He is healing people of bodily ailments and of demons. The man with an unclean spirit in the synagogue, Peter's mother-in-law, all the sick and demon possessed that were brought to Him, and then going on to other towns healed the leper. Did you ever see a chapter so full of events? Indeed it is one of quick action.

We come along over the verses some what smoothly until we reach the 34th verse and it catches in our mind, "And He suffered not the demons to speak." When I read that verse I wondered what the meaning was and looking in the commentary found no comment. But there is some meaning to it for all Scripture has its place and purpose.

Jesus was healing two classes of people. Or better say He was doing two kinds of healing. First the bodies of people. That form of healing is one of the great works of Christianity to day. No church is completely carrying out the religion of our Lord until it helps to heal the sick. But He was also healing peoples' souls. Demons were being cast out. Where did they go when cast out? Did they just float around? That could be possible but they are not so pictured. But when cast out they want to enter something else the it be a hog or wandering just a little while in waterless places seek to come back in the heart that had been cleansed.

Those that Jesus did not suffer to speak may have been just the cast out demons whom Jesus would not permit to ask Him to let them enter any live being. Or this verse might refer to all the demons both cast out and not cast out. But any way Jesus suffered not the demons to speak.

Two questions arise in our minds to day:

1. Does the devil speak in these times?
2. In what manner do we find him speaking today?

Now to the first question we will say yes, he speaks to day. Who has heard of his being dead? In fact he has his loud speaker and amplifiers all set up and I fear that his voice is heard more than usual. In fact again let me say that the church which is to proclaim for Jesus has grown too timid. We never want to make the voice of the church any thing but the voice of love but the voice of love does not have to be shorn of warning. Think of the mother who loves her son so dearly not warning him in danger. Is the church lifting its voice to day in loving warning as energetically as the alluring

voice of the devil is being raised?

Now the second question, "In what manner is the devil lifting his voice to-day?" brings forth many answers.

1. He is permitted to speak in Russia to day in such loud tones that the voice of Jesus is not allowed to be spoken.
2. That is a far way from home. My heart is grieved over the ease with which he gets publicity here in our own fair little city. The worldly side of our young peoples lives gets far more publicity than their religious side. I am very much interested in the young people of Water Valley. But for the Methodist young people I am jealous. I am handing out a word of warning to our parents of Water Valley. You are sleeping on the cars. It is your responsibility. My responsibility is to give the warning of love. I am doing that to-day out of a heart full of emotions for these young people over whom I am pastor and giving the warning when I know that there is a strong probability of being misunderstood. It has been my experience that no young peoples organization ever succeeds where the young people refuse to tear away from the world. No one can accuse me of always harping on card playing and dancing but the evil of dancing is slipping in on the young people of Water Valley. Since I came to Water Valley this thing has been growing..first I would notice one or two Methodist names..but how that number has grown..These things begin as home affairs..and some parents are so unwise as to say that is no harm when it is the primary department for the ball room. We have already evolved to the hotel. I am not your boss but an interested spectator. The church has declared itself on this form of worldliness and drunkenness because so much harm has come from them. I just crave that the devil never be allowed to ~~speak out in this regard~~ any more in Water Valley.
3. He speaks out also in the fields of war. He so dictates to the makes of war munitions that they hear his voice. He so speaks to the selfishness of nations that they hear him.
4. In the political parties of our own nation we can not yet say, "He was not suffered to speak."
5. Neither can we look at the record of broken homes, thievery, and gangsterism and say he is not suffered to speak.
6. He speaks through men like Darrow..still bold enough to speak out in a city auditorium.

Yes the devil would speak to the detriment of your influence whether you be young or old, rich or poor. He would so muddle our poor confused minds as to make us forget the hereafter. He would so hold before our eyes the worldly temporary pleasures that we would resent any interference of the preacher. That has happened to me in my ministry but this has also happened that a day came when they wanted the preacher more than they wanted anything else because they thought he might talk to God for them.

Jesus suffered not the demons to speak but the great God has taught his representatives to sit on the walls and if a danger is seen approaching his people to cry out and warn the people. If they hear not his voice the preacher has delivered himself. Jesus has taught us to go all over the world and preach the gospel of putting God's Kingdom first.

There is a voice we would not still. It is that "Still small voice." That is the voice we want to hear in trouble and that is the voice we must have in death when our crowd can avail us nothing.

Now by the direction of God, as I believe it to be, I have delivered my self on this subject ed "Speaking devils" This sermon may not be heard again

in Water Valley. It applies to young and old alike. I may have not mentioned the manner in which he speaks in your life. But I am praying God this morning that if in our consciences we know of any way that he is publishing our influence as on his side we will say this day we are going to try the harder to live that Christ will so predominate in our lives that it may be said concerning us, "The Christian people of Water Valley suffer not the devil to speak." We can do this as we live by the plan in the skies.

I want us parents to pledge ourselves right here to seek to do more for the wholesome entertainment of our young people so that the devil will not get a hearing in those forms of worldliness out of which has always grown so much harm. We are usually mighty quick to abuse the young for their worldly habits but painfully slow to plan something else. Will you pledge to seek to do more for them. Then will you young people pledge to abstain from this special form of worldliness and help us to work out a more wholesome program for you?

