

A Time For Everything
Ecclesiastes Ch 3 v 7

Never let it be said that women talk more than men! I am sure that given the chance, men can talk at length with each other just as much as women. Humans, both men and women, were meant to connect with each other - through human interaction - through talking to each other – through speaking and verbalising their internal thoughts. I am one of those people who bemoan the over-use of texts, emails and other electronic devices, when direct speaking could do the job in half the time. A controversial subject!!!!

There was certainly much verbalisation going on at our recent MWA Day at Hall Green. It was a wonderful day spent with MWA members and friends from throughout the Province. Sr Susan Quildan-Foreman, in the opening service, used as one of her texts the verse from the Book of Esther (Ch 4 v 14) where Mordecai says to Esther 'If you keep quiet at a time like this, help will come from heaven and the Jews will be saved'. This reminded me of the verse in Ecclesiastes Ch 3 'a time for silence and a time for talk'. Esther knew the difference. Esther's life, as documented in those ten chapters, was one that touched on romance, murder, mystery, deceit, trust and courage. I wrote a paper on Esther in October 2019 when we were following the theme of Wonder Women! Then and Now. Esther really was a Wonder Woman. Read Esther again if you want a good story.

I am sure that Jesus knew when to speak and when to be silent. He definitely knew when to speak and when he did people listened! There is very little record of him entering into dialogue with any of his executioners – the guards or soldiers, or Pontius Pilate. His silence spoke volumes! Even Pilate said very little but simply washed his hands of the whole affair.

Do we always know the difference between idle chat and pure gossip?

Do we know when to be silent?

Do we know when to speak up for what we know to be right?

Do we know when to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves?

Do we know when to spread God's word and when not to?

I'm not sure that I could give a positive answer to all of those questions. Many times I have wished that the floor could swallow me up because of something I have said. Conversely there are times when I wish that I had spoken out yet I remained silent. Maybe you are the same. Let us pray that we continue to learn 'the time for silence and the time for talk'.

For Discussion

1. Are we comfortable with silence?
2. The above questions can form much discussion.