



ODD DUCK MINISTRIES

July 2024

Stop!! Just stop!!

I've been on a rant lately. It's built up over the last few years until now I can't stand not to say something.

The last few years have found me struggling with a number of pain issues one after the other. First my left knee needed surgery. Not a replacement but orthoscopic to get rid of some of the arthritis. It worked but left my ankles hurting randomly. We don't know why but a partial session of reflexology fixed them and I was good to go. Then in March 2023 I started having trouble with carpal tunnel pain in my left hand, then right, having surgery at the end of October, 2023 and again at the beginning of January 2024. Which THEN set off some sort of strange roaming pain pretty much all over-head to toe. After a bunch of bloodwork and some struggle with the Physician's Assistant (and a doctor switch) we think it's caused by a severe vitamin D deficiency. I'm under treatment but it's been slow and I've been impatient. It's been exhausting and depressing.

I don't tell you all of this to elicit sympathy. I hate the fuss. Please don't fuss.

Why I am telling you this is because I noticed something strange. Something strange that we do to each other that I don't understand.

I received advice. Lots and lots of advice. What to do-not to do. Did I try this or this or that remedy? Did I know about this treatment? Why am I not doing this, this or this? All of the advice comes from a place of care and concern which is sweet. But all of it was unsolicited.

So many words. So many words wasted.

Yet, and remember I include myself in this, when granted an opportunity to present the Gospel many times we have...no words.

Nothing. Nada.

We close doors in the faces of the folks who knock or we pretend not to be home. We walk by tables or displays set up outside the store. When we do stop and talk, we try to "get" or "one up" the listeners. We say nothing in the name of "not wanting to offend." We believe it's not our gift to evangelize. We believe the lie "Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words".

People - words must be spoken. If I should die right now I will go to heaven. Yay! BUT if the folks at our door don't at least have a chance of hearing the Gospel then -well- their destination is not heaven.

Romans 10:14 asks "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19 both use command language to *all* of us.

Speaking the gospel is difficult and takes practice. Doing so can be awkward and we might lose a friend.

Or

That friend could come to Christ and have their lives changed forever.

It's not up to us to bring people to a saving faith. That's God's job. We just need to speak life-giving words to them. Words of eternal life. *John 6:68-69*

Words that are *never* wasted. *Isaiah 55:11*

Praying for patience,

Susan and Joe Wolf

P.S. Updates about our summer and upcoming fall will be in August's newsletter.