

You Can't

Say...



**Proverbs 26: 4 Do not answer** a fool according to his folly,

or you yourself will be just like him.

**5 Answer a fool** according to his folly,  
or he will be wise in his own eyes.

Wisdom is knowing when to  
say something  
and when to say nothing.



Better to remain silent and be thought a fool  
than to speak and to remove all doubt.

— Abraham Lincoln

Silence is golden unless you have kids.  
Then silence is suspicious.

— Anonymous





You can't say...

---

**something.**



**Matthew 26:** 42 He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

**Matthew 26: 45** Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

You can't say something...

---

**when acceptance is required.**

**Job 38: 2** “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?”

**Job 40: 3** Then Job answered the Lord:

4 “I am unworthy—how can I reply to you?  
I put my hand over my mouth.

5 I spoke once, but I have no answer—  
twice, but **I will say no more.**”



You can't say something...

---

**when lament has run its course.**



**Habakkuk 2:** I will stand at my watch  
and station myself on the ramparts;  
I will look to see what he will say to me...

After lament  
there must be silence.

**Psalm 37: 7 Be still before the Lord**

**and wait patiently for him;**

**do not fret when people succeed in their ways,**

**when they carry out their wicked schemes.**



**Matthew 27:** 11 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

**Matthew 27:** 12 When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, **he gave no answer.** 13 Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” 14 **But Jesus made no reply,** not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

You can't say something

---

when you need to let God speak.

**John 13: 35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”



**1 Peter 2: 21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

**22** “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

**23** When they hurled their insults at him, **he did not retaliate**; when he suffered, **he made no threats**.

Our silence becomes our  
testimony  
that we too bear the cross of  
Christ.

**Proverbs 17: 19** When there are many words,  
wrongdoing is unavoidable,  
But one who restrains his lips is wise.

In the weakness of our silence  
God is made strong.

**1 Peter 2: 21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

**22** “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

**23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

**1 Peter 2: 21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

**22** “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

**23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. **Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**

When we are silent in our  
weakness, we proclaim to God,  
“I trust your will and your  
justice”





You Can't

Say...