

## Lessons I Have Learned at Wal-Mart (1)

I have mentioned before that I have worked secular jobs at times to help supplement my support. I worked for Frito Lay for almost 3.5 years. I worked at several stores around Wooster, Ohio. I worked at three different Wal-Mart stores in the area. I have noticed many things at the grocery stores. It has left me shaking my head on so many different things. I would like to share some these things with you.

In around some of the stores it amazes me as to how much foul language is used. I cannot believe how many adults have used such language. I was just in the store and two kids around seventeen were talking about getting off school and what they were going to do for the weekend and then the pipe bombs just started spewing out. I have never heard so much vulgarity in a matter of 3 minutes. But the even worse one happened as I was walking past the detergent area, and a 3 year called her mother a 5-letter name. I could not believe my ears for hearing and my eyes for seeing it.

Those are just a couple of occasions that came to mind in thinking about this subject. Brethren and friends, we need to mind our words. So many times, today talking with folks you can see that many have these expletives in their own everyday vocabulary. I cannot believe how easy it is to say and how many say it. It is a disturbing trend that is being passed on to all who hear this.

However, let me share some insight with you now on this. James reminds us that we are to be slow to speak (**James 1:19-20**). Notice what James says we need to be swift to hear and slow to speak. Many have this concept backwards being slow to hearing and swift to speaking. One that is swift to speaking we do not think about what we say. The first thing that comes out comes out. No matter what the words may be, we can see the results as vulgar language comes out.

James does not stop there, and we can see this further in **James 3:1-12**. People have been able to control large vessels and animals. Being able to turn such in the direction and go the way we want it to go. But no one can tame the tongue. We cannot tame but it can be better managed, and plus no one can be able to say they are Christian and curse the way some curse. I have seen this several times where someone will say that they are Christians and the very next thing out of their mouth is more of these curse words. Deplorable acts happen with the tongue!

Paul goes on to further instruct on using our words (**Colossians 4:6**). Let it be seasoned with salt. Again, it boils down to us thin king about what we are going to say. Is it beneficial? Is it encouraging? Has been thought about? Or is it derogatory? Is it offensive language? Is this language, I would want others to hear? Is it sinful? Is it the first thing that comes to mind and I blurt out immediately? Think about the words you are using!

I know many of us have gone to other stores and have witnessed such things. I cannot believe how easy it is nowadays. But then, I see where parents do not enforce such things and that only encourages the behavior.

I was just talking to my dad about what happened at Wal-Mart with this child and mother. The response of the mother was "you can't say that at school!" and that was it no other discipline. If that were me and I said something like this (first I would never do so) the bar of soap will still be embedded in my mouth to this day.

What I have learned from this experience is that many sadly do not care what they say or what others may hear we say. So, whatever is said is said and that is that. People say the first thing that comes to mind. When someone may ask me about something I have always paused first. I collected myself and then will respond. It is a practice that I think is well needed in this life and the benefits speak for itself.

***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in thy sight, O Jehovah, my rock, and my redeemer. (Psalms 19:14)***

This verse here sums it all well. Let everything that is said be pleasing and acceptable to God! (Colossians 3:17). ***And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*** Daniel N. Sanders