Chapter 11: Talkative
Introduction

Having emerged from the darkness of the Valley of the Shadow of Death, Christian and Faithful discovered one another on the path to the Celestial City and entered into a new friendship centered in Christ. After sharing their respective stories of God’s providential guidance and grace in their lives, they continued on their journey.
Traveling on a wide road, Faithful arbitrarily glanced to his side and spotted a man who was walking beside them, but at some distance away. He seemed to be a tall, handsome man (at least from a distance). His name was Talkative.
At first, it appeared that Talkative was also on his way to the Celestial City and was interested in making the journey with Christian and Faithful. He even seemed to favor Faithful’s suggestion that they speak about things that will be profitable for them – to talk about God and the things that matter to Him. In the text which follows, Talkative unfolded an impressive list of topics which he was interested in pursuing.
Talkative’s Topics of Conversation

- Things that are good
- The things of God
- Things recorded in the Holy Scriptures
- Things that are most profitable
- The emptiness of earthly things
- The benefit of the things above
- The necessity of the new birth
Talkative’s Topics of Conversation

• The insufficiency of our good works
• The need for Christ’s righteousness
• What it means to repent, to believe, to pray, to suffer, and other things like these
• The great promises and consolations in the gospel
• How to refute false opinions and to vindicate truth
Talkative’s Topics of Conversation

- The need for faith
- The necessity of a work of grace in human hearts in order to have eternal life
- Heavenly things or earthly things
- Things moral or things evangelical
- Things sacred or things secular
- Things past or things to come
Talkative’s Topics of Conversation

- Things foreign or things at home
- Things that are essential or things circumstantial
“Talkative accurately reproduces the topics and phraseology of Puritan discourse in a parody of many of the conversations in *Pilgrim’s Progress* itself. The inadequacy of such a merely opinionative faith as his was a constant theme of Puritan sermons. Richard Baxter’s observation that ‘it was never the will of God that bare *speculation* should be the end (goal) of his Revelations, or of our *belief*’ is exactly Faithful’s
point, while the gist of Faithful’s discountenance (to withdraw one’s countenance from; to disfavor) of Talkative is contained in Thomas Adams’ aphorism that we are ‘to walk, not to talk of love: One step of our feet is worth ten words of our tongues.’”
Christian Exposes Talkative

- From the City of Destruction
- The son of Saywell
- Lived in Prating-row
- Well-known in his city
- “Except for his fine tongue, he is a sorry fellow.”
- He seems to be on his best behavior when he is away from home.
“Say-well is good, but do-well is better.”

Six Ballads, edited by J. Goodwin in 1844
Prating Row

• **Prate:** Idle, profitless, or irrelevant talk; chatter, prattle.

• **Row:** a number of houses standing in a line; a street (esp. a narrow one) with a continuous line of houses along one or both sides. In early use these often derived from the trade carried on in a particular row (as Butcher-row, Spicer Row, etc.).
Charleston’s Rainbow Row
Christian Exposes Talkative

• He will mingle with anyone and talk about anything.
• At a bar, the more he drinks, the more he talks.
• Religion has no place in his heart, or house, or way of life.
• All he has is his tongue, and his religion is to make noise with it.
• He says things, but does not do them.
Christian Exposes Talkative

- He mentions prayer, repentance, faith, and the new birth, but he only knows how to talk about them.
- There is no prayer or sign of repentance in his home.
- He defrauds and deceives.
- He calls his own children fools and idiots when they display a tender conscience.
Christian Exposes Talkative

• He has caused many to stumble and fall.
• Good people are ashamed of him.
• They do not call him brother or friend.
Saying & Doing

- *Saying* and *doing* are as different as the soul and the body. *Saying*, is like a dead carcass without the soul of true religion.

- “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves” (James 1:22).

- In the Final Judgment, we will not be asked, “Did you believe?” but “Were you doers?”
Paul says that even if he speaks with the tongues of men and angels, but does not have love, he has become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (I Cor. 13:1). Great talkers are devoid of the true faith and grace of the gospel.
Crying Out vs. Abhorring Sin

- **Cry out**: speaking against a particular sin as a matter of formality.
- **Abhor**: to regard with disgust; to have a godly hatred of sin.
- **Example**: Potiphar’s wife, who tried to seduce Joseph, cried out with a loud voice, but would have willingly committed adultery with him.
Knowledge & Grace

• A person may have great knowledge without a work of grace being done in his heart.
• “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them” (John 13:17).
• “A person may know as much as an angel and yet not be a Christian” (Bunyan).
• To know pleases talkers and boasters; to do is that which pleases God.
Two Kinds of Knowledge

• Knowledge that rests in the speculation of things (the talker).
• Knowledge that is accompanied with the grace of faith and love that makes a person do the will of God from the heart (the true believer).
“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.”
“If one does not make human knowledge wholly dependent upon the original self-knowledge and consequent revelation of God to man, then man will have to seek knowledge within himself as the final reference point. Then he will have to seek an exhaustive understanding of reality. Then he will have to hold that if he cannot attain to such an exhaustive understanding of reality, he has no true knowledge of anything at all. Either man must then know everything or he knows nothing.”
A Work of Grace

• It manifests itself to the one who has it and to others who see it in his life.

• The one who has it experiences conviction of sin. It produces sorrow and shame within him. The Savior is revealed in him so that he gives his life wholeheartedly to him; He hungers and thirsts for righteousness; He has joy and peace; He loves holiness; He desires to know Christ more and to serve Him in the world.
A Work of Grace

• Since the Old Man is still present, we can misjudge the matter of our salvation. Therefore sound judgment is required of those who have this work of grace performed in them before they can, with assurance, conclude that this is a work of grace.
II Peter 1:10

“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”
“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test?”
How Others See a Work of Grace

• The Christian makes a profession of his faith in Christ.
• He lives a life of holiness.
• He abhors his sin.
• He suppresses sin in his family and promotes holiness in the world.
• Talkative did not expect the kinds of questions that Faithful asked him so he blushed and was unwilling to respond with answers.
• He blamed Faithful for being “judgmental.”
• Talkative concluded that Faithful was a “discontented or melancholic person, not fit to talk with.” (argumentum ad hominem)
• Talkative left Faithful.
Application

• Some would rather leave us than reform their lives. Let them go.
• Pray that they will think about what you have said later on and come to the Lord.
• As the Lord gives you opportunity, speak candidly with those who are only “Talkative” – speak the truth in love – with the hope that they may be brought into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”