

## No Guile in Their Mouth Sermon Transcript

By Adrian Ebens at Talking Rock Georgia, 5 November 2013

Father in Heaven, I thank you that you have called us to bless us. I want to learn. I just pray that the things that you're speaking to me this morning, that you would help me to express those things and that you would build in us that Gospel knit. You want to do it. There are some reasons why it's difficult for us to be knit together. I hope that we can address some of those things that that are in my mind right now. I just thank you that you are here by your Spirit. I thank you, Lord Jesus, that you walk amongst us by your Spirit, and that you will bless us in Jesus' name, amen.

The thing that the God's people desire is Acts 2:1, isn't it? "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come," another appointed time, we're in Acts chapter two. This desire, when the day of Pentecost has fully come now, all with one accord in one place. This experience, as we were saying in the last couple of presentations, the first thing is this, there will be no end of the world without repentance of God's people. The repentance is the great leveller. That all men are created equal as sinners and all men equally in need of a saviour.

The process of repentance brings us into one place in one accord. Of course, this is one of those moments that when the disciples had realized what they had done and had our bickering about who will be the greatest, and the Saviour was about to die while they're bickering about who's going to be the greatest. Then Mary showed them the way, the way to life. She became a channel of light. As we mentioned, Mary was the catalyst to bring about the end of that period of history. Because her action led to Jesus defending her, to Judas getting upset about that and going off to the priest and are doing a deal and leading to Jesus' death.

So, her display of love led to the death of Jesus Christ, which saves the whole world for those who are willing to be saved. So, coming into one accord in one place, we have as a group of believers and that we're here on the weekend. We have engaged in a process of repentance. We want to bring this Spirit into the tabernacles, to continue this work because as Igor was saying, this is crucial for the safe place that there is nothing hidden between brethren and where things need to be resolved. So that they can be a sense that we can become vulnerable.

There is no fellowship without vulnerability. Vulnerability is the willingness to share oneself with another, to be open. That's the sweetness of fellowship. When you sensed that someone is sharing their heart with you. They are revealing part of themselves to you, that is a precious moment, is it not? This is where we have a dilemma, with this coming into one accord in one place.

The first place that I would begin is in Genesis. We were in Genesis chapter four in the Sabbath School lesson, Gary was speaking about this. Cain will illustrate for us some of the dilemma that we face. I wonder if someone has a marginal reading for verse 13 of chapter 4. When Cain speaks, what's the margin say?

**Speaker 2:** *My prayer for you that I may not be forgiven.*

You can't forgive me, Lord. The Scripture, the spirit coming out of Scripture is it's very wise in that it presents what he says outwardly, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." But the heart is crying out, "You could never forgive me for what I've done." Both of these things are going on at the same time. The outward display of indignation and the inward, my iniquity is greater than can be forgiven.

Let's step back a bit in terms of our personal experience, one of the greatest barriers to vulnerability and intimacy, and I mean intimacy amongst brethren, a closeness.

Intimacy is part of being a child of Abraham because God said in Genesis 18, "I have known him," yada, intimate, "In order that he may command his family and his children after him." To command the family, in a sense of intimacy requires to receive intimacy in order to give intimacy. To know, and that's what we're talking about. As children of Abraham, we are a family. As a family, we are invited to that kind of intimacy and vulnerability. But the voice of Cain cries out because in the back of each of our minds, somewhere, there is a little voice that said, and I'll now bring it down to myself, and that in speaking to all of you, if you really knew what was in this head of mine, you wouldn't want to know me.

I know that you're hearing what I'm saying because we are all of one body. We have thoughts that go through our heads that cause us shame. We have a past, and we have a history that hurts us. We've said and we've done things that we regret. The accuser of the brethren is constantly saying to you, "These people don't want to be intimate with you. You do not deserve this kind of intimacy."

Have you ever witnessed a relationship, and I've seen this in some places where a husband will take a wife and the wife because of her upbringing, the way that she's been told, that the words that have been spoken to her by her caregivers is that you're no good? You don't deserve any good thing. Justify your existence. With that mindset being brought into an intimate relationship, she's being told she's no good. So, she begins to act out what she's been taught, and she begins to push her husband away or the husband in the same, pushing his wife away.

Intensely desiring intimacy, but at the same time pushing away because I don't deserve this. Until we can come to the place where we know that we are loved despite where we have come from, we will be very hesitant to engage in any level of vulnerability and intimacy with anybody else. Just a little footnote there, I've tried to write all about that in my little book, *Identity Wars*, about value system, to be valued apart from your performance. That's something that's very, very difficult to do. So, all of us have a history. Our Father knows our history. Our Father knows our history, and yet He's called us for a blessing.

That's the thing that continues to amaze me because as inspiration tells us the closer we come to Christ, the more wicked we see ourselves to be. But the closer we come to Christ, the more we realize that He knew this all along and he's loved me all the way.

Again, my heart cries out and I've expressed this in the foreword of my book, *My Beloved*. Is it me that he's calling for? You can't love me; I hear the voice of Cain in my soul. My iniquity is greater than can be forgiven, you cannot love me. My Saviour says to me, "Is your word sovereign or is mine?" Who is the sovereign? This is the great tragedy of self-determination. Self-determination makes one a sovereign and that sovereign will ultimately condemn itself and judge itself unworthy of eternal life. That's why most people won't go, because they don't believe that God could love such an evil person. Yet he's beckoning, "My child, come. I want to be intimate with you."

For me to believe that, as Igor was sharing, all the fullness of God has manifest in Christ, and we can have the mind of Christ, to think that we can know all that is in the mind of the Father. I shout out with a joy. Why would he do that? He's willing to share what He knows. But He's so great and I'm so small. In dealing with organizations and leaders, people at the top of organizations aren't really that interested in the little people down the bottom, are they? All the way it seems, in many cases. He mixes with the important people. But our Father is not like that.

So, the first barrier that will stand in our way or one of the barriers is, is your iniquity greater than can be forgiven? Is there something in your soul that says, "I can give out little bits, but I can't. If I give out too much, they'll know what I'm like. Once they know what I'm like, they won't want to know me. So, I'm going to play it safe." To be in one accord in one place is to get beyond that.

The second point that I had in my mind has to do with the third angel's message, Revelation. Again, we're picking up on the point of intimacy. Intimacy, there's something here. These 144,000 are sealed with the Father's name. In their mind, the Father's name is there. One of the characteristics that allows this seal to take place is found in verse 5. It says, "And in their mouth was no guile." What is guile? Deceit, an intention to deceive, to decoy, to present yourself in a position or represent yourself in a position that you're not actually there.

God's people are going to come out of guile. Again, I address this in greater detail in *My Beloved*. There's a section there where I deal with this question in a greater detail. But one of the byproducts of the spirit of Cain, that my iniquity is greater than can be forgiven and you wouldn't really want to know me, is to then fall into this process of projecting an image that is not actually who you are. On order to make conversation and to get a laugh, we project things that we don't actually believe. To project something that doesn't actually represent who you are destroys intimacy. When someone gets a sense that someone is speaking to you, and it's this... How can I describe it?

In inspiration, Ellen White talks about when she saw the smile on Satan's face, as he was taking a soul into his hand, that smile that comes into a human face when you've had something said to you and it's not what they are actually believing and thinking. Then the little smile comes up, there's this brief moment of possession, a possession of the soul. When you say something that you don't mean, the wicked spirits say to the heavenly angels, "He's acknowledging us. This is how we operate; we operate by saying things we don't believe in. We present ourselves as someone we are not, hand him over."

It is a fearful thing to fall into guile. Yet in my life experience, this kind of practice, to say things that I don't actually mean, to say things to get a laugh, is as natural as breathing for me. Inspiration affirms that. She says it is natural as breathing. Guile. I reiterate, guile is a natural product of a soul that could never believe that the actual person they are could ever be accepted. So, the projection begins, to project yourself in a way that you are not. I am very, very grateful that in the period of my courtship with my wife, our Father brought this to my attention.

As I look back now, I'm just so thankful. I mean, one of the challenges of the life of faith is you learn something, and then it's about another 10 years before you really understand what you learned. You're powering it off, but you still don't really understand what you're talking about. But we do that from small children, children are saying things and they're right in there, and they don't really know what they're talking about, and we never really change. We still are like that. But in the beginning, by God's grace, I was reading about this guile and come over to 2 Peter. I think it's 2 Peter. No, 1 Peter?

This is an emphasis point. I'm going back 20 years now to when this first really impressed itself upon my mind and that is 1 Peter 2:21, here was a calling. I'm reinitiating this call here today, "For even here in to where ye called because Christ also suffered for us leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." Notice what it says, "Who did no sin." Hallelujah. But notice, no sin means everything, doesn't it? What are the next words?

*Speaker 3: Neither was guile.*

Neither was guile found in his mouth. Here we have in a Hebrew parallelism, guile being equated with sin itself. Guile is specifically singled out as the number one issue, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. "Here unto were you called that you should follow his steps," no guile. No guile is the doorway to being in one accord in one place. It's the doorway to intimacy and vulnerability, after you have stood firmly upon the blood of Christ, that He could love a sinner. We should not call God a liar. It says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When we believe that, we can leave behind the voice of Cain. They would never want to know me; they would want to know me because my Father loves me and I'm valuable in His eyes. Then the second step is to speak only those things which we mean. The third, then I'm not going to cover this point, but the step after that is that the things that we say are the words of our Father. That we would never say anything, that we mean, "I'm just going to speak my mind." Well, if we have the mind of Christ, let's speak that mind. In that speaking, there is no guile. No deception, no smile on the face that says, "Gotcha." That's what our adversary does. Gotcha.

There is a satisfaction in seeing confusion in the face of another human soul. As I think of how many times I've done that to people, I'm horrified. It's evil to laugh at gullibility and confusion in the face of a brother or a sister, in order to create a laugh. But again, I reiterate the point that when you're in a group of people and you know, when it's a little bit silent, and it's a little bit awkward, and we don't really want to share what we're feeling inside, somebody tell a joke. Let's break the ice. Then we head down that path.

I confess in the time that I've been here, I've already been engaging in that kind of behaviour. I've felt myself drawn into that. I ask God to forgive me. It's just a further realization that deep within the conscious, deep within the subconscious, there is still this thing that hangs on to me. It says, "These people really don't want to know you." I choose to disbelieve that, I choose to believe that you want to know me, and I want to know you. Because you are my brother and sister, you are a blood bought child of God, and He loves you. He's given everything for you. Therefore, I want to know you, and be one with you, even as Christ is one with His Father.

If I may, another point that has really been impressed upon me in terms of how guile affects our life and it tears down intimacy. Having no guile in your life is a huge, provides a huge protection for you and your family. Let me express it this way, that when you engage in the spirit of deception, what happened to Jacob? When he deceived, what happened? He was deceived. In one of the most critical aspects of life, the woman that he would be married to, because he was engaged in one of the most deceptive things, for a son to deceive his father is one of the worst things you can do in your life. He walked straight into it. Because he deceived, he was deceived. When we engage in deception, we invite deception.

When we allow ourselves to engage in deception, we invite deception. We invite spirits of deception. I would like to suggest to each one of us here, one of the biggest reasons why there is doctrinal difficulties is because we are inviting spirits of deception which deceive us. Does that make sense? If our heart inclines itself to guile, the spirits of guile when we pick up the Word of God begins speaking to us guile. Because we haven't eliminated these spirits from our heart, there's the danger of a strong delusion being sent to us. This is a serious issue, isn't it? These are all the issues that stand in the way of God's people coming together.

It takes the faith of Jesus to overcome guile. I can't overcome it. I can't. But my Saviour has overcome it, and I have the mind of Christ, all the promises of God are yes in Christ Jesus. During this time, let's be

our brother's keeper. I'm not going to be offended because I can't promise you that I won't slip. I won't be offended if you say, "Brother, are you sure? Did you really mean that? Are you sure?" It helps when someone asks a question, someone comes, "Brother, you are in sin."

I'll try and take that if you say it that way. But that's really hard because it really reinforces the voice of Cain, "Oh, I know, I'm a sinner." But then I justify myself and, "Well, you aren't so good yourself, are you?" It's like where do you go? My punishment is greater than I can bear. How dare you say that to me.

So, I'm appealing to us as brothers and sisters. The Lord Jesus can bring us out of guile. No one's ever going to be part of the 144,000 unless we come out of this spirit. Jesus is the only way; He's overcome it already. He has that perfect mind that only... He's the faithful witness. He will never ever say anything to you that is untrue, deceptive or in any way guile, He will tell you exactly what you need to hear. I'm thankful that my lips can express those words. I can express the words of my Saviour. In doing that, I can come out of guile.

In terms of these spirits, I want to just hone in on this little point about when we engage in a spirit, that spirit engages us. Some people say, "Had a long day, just want to let off a bit of steam. I'll sit down and watch a sitcom." Bit of comedy, laughter is good for the soul, isn't it? The Bible even says that laughter is like a medicine. But what is comedy all about? It's not very comical. It's desperately sad. If you sit and you watch comedy, you are watching deception. If you're watching deception, you will be deceived. Because the spirit of deception comes into your house.

**Speaker 8:** *Through someone else's expenses.*

Yes.

**Speaker 9:** *Maybe slightly missed the word of it, a merry heart can feel like this.*

A merry heart. Not a comical heart. Yeah. These things are evil. I mean, I think we understand the principle like to watch. This is where I'm coming back to My Beloved, the drama of transformed reality. Any film or drama that you would watch is guile because the people who are... For a man to play the role of another man is guile. That's a big statement. You can only be who you are. You cannot be anything other than who God called you to be and to take on the name of another man, to take on the name of another woman and to portray that person is guile. Because that's not who you are. God only asks you to live your life, not anybody else's life.

For that reason, I have found that even at that level, a small level of deception that's going on, you may be watching a very, very carefully rated film, it may have no language in it. It may have no sexuality or immorality in it, but it's still drama. Who was the first one that came to the human race presenting himself as something he was not? Lucifer. He is the master of transformation. The father of lies. So, we can't engage in any of those things. For someone like myself that has grown up with movies and films, it's some kind of spiritual, it's been like a spiritual medication for me to help me deal with the spirit of Cain within my soul. Your iniquity's great and can be forgiven here.

Here, Adrian, I've got some entertainment for you. Just put your feet up and relax, comfort your soul, I'll feed you. It was a hard process to put all that stuff aside. I had some very real experiences. I think maybe the Lord allowed the window to open a little bit more to really impress this upon my mind because I was mentioning this the other night that... This comes back to a presentation that I took called Strong Man of the House, that as the head of your family, as a spiritual leader of your family, if Satan can take you down, he's got access to the whole family. It's a really big point. It's a really, really big point.

From there, if the evil one can take the mother down, he's got even more access to the children.

I was just in a store. I bought some things. Sometimes when you're having an exchange with someone you've never really met before. You want to be friendly. I just made a comment off the cuff and it was guile. As soon as I walked out the store, my phone's ringing. My wife's on the phone. My wife saying we're having trouble with our son, he's starting to scream, because our youngest son has autism, and something's going wrong. Immediately the voice in my head, "You did this." You allowed this spirit into your house. It was really a challenge. You think, "Am I imagining this? Is this a coincidence?" The Bible indicates that this is the way it works.

Sometimes I think our Father amplifies the situation in order for us to get it. I need a lot of lot of amplification in my life because often I don't get it. So, I immediately knelt down and I confessed that sin, and it stopped. One thing that I've really learned about this is that if I have a violation in my life as the head of my house because my wife is under my influence, two weeks later, she's in a store. She's speaking to the sales person, out of her lips comes guile, two weeks after I did it. I planted the seed; I reaped a reward.

She's driving home after this experience with guile and she's driving along and in. It's a four-wheel drive. It's a big vehicle. All of a sudden, the wheel starts going like this and then bang. The tire blows out. She's in the middle of nowhere. Again, my son, youngest son is crying. It's a really difficult situation, and she cried out to our Father. All sudden, out of nowhere, this man comes with this huge jack and changes the tire and then she's off on her way.

When she got home, and this is the point that really spoke to me, when my wife walked in the door, and she's feeling vulnerable because she realized she'd said something that she shouldn't have, and it created a difficult situation. At that point, what am I going to do? I'm not going to say to her, "Honey," that, "Honey, why did you do this?" You just see the rose just...

The Father was saying to me, "Adrian." See, he didn't go, "Adrian." Adrian, you know why this happened, don't you? Because you started this and you put your wife in a vulnerable position. You need to apologize to her for what happened in her life. Whoa. That's what headships about. That's headship. Taking responsibility. Bible says, "As by one man," doesn't say as by one woman, as by one man. Sin.

Taking responsibility, and I apologized to my wife for putting her in a position of vulnerability. These have been tremendous lessons. I would like to say, once you've gone through that experience, right, I've got that covered. It's not like that. But I share these things with you as illustrations of how the spirits of evil get access into our home. I want to share with you one more thing before I stop. This was a real shock to me. But I shouldn't be shocked.

That is a friend just sent a YouTube clip about a song that was about the sanctuary. It was about Jesus ministering for us in the sanctuary. I listened to the song and it was just beautiful. I just was drawn to the music and I begin to weep. One of the hardest things for me to understand has been that when you read something, when you are touched by something that has a spiritual connection to it, that I've automatically assumed that it's from God. That's been a big mistake that I've made. Satan would never ever bring me into an experience like this. Yet we've read an inspiration where it says many people can come and weep at the foot of the cross, yet they crucify the three angels' messages. They're weeping about Jesus and they're in love with Jesus, they're speaking the words, they're in love with Jesus. But when Jesus comes to them, they crucify him.

I immediately went online, I purchased the album, I downloaded the album, and I began to listen to it. This was music that was released by an Adventist ministry. I began to listen to it and I was weeping. I was listening. I felt I'm being blessed and then over the next couple of days, suddenly, my wife and I began to miscommunicate. When I say miscommunicate, I thought you, but I thought you, but didn't you, this kind of situation.

There's the little bit of irritation that comes up, "But I did tell you. I told you." Oh, calm down. Put that back inside, hide that smelly rag. As soon as that began to happen, from what I'd learned, miscommunication, misunderstanding. Something's come into my house. Something's in my house. Now, I'm not trying to throw off my responsibility for my sin. But I'm also aware that the devil is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. I check myself, is it just me or is it something else. As I began to look around the house, I began to notice other things. This is one of the key things of spiritual headship, is God gives a man spiritual perception to see things that his subordinates won't always pick up.

That's a fearful responsibility. Again, on this particular point, I can say that I have failed miserably because whenever the Lord has shown me something spiritually, what the Father wanted me to do is get on my knees like Job and pray for my family. But so many times, I've gone, "Honey." I've pointed out the failure, not realizing that as the blessing of my home, whatever words come out of my mouth have tremendous power in my family. One of the greatest tragedies of my life and for most of us men here is we have not understood priesthood, the power of words because we don't think we are in the position of the blessing, and it says, "Women shall rule over them and children shall be their oppressors," we act like children, and we speak to our spouse as if they are our mother or our co-equal. We curse them, and it kills them.

So, I'm getting a bit off track there. But I began to notice that on my website, that suddenly my website crashed and it went down. Then other things started happening. I was getting this impression, Adrian, you need to check this music out. So, I went online. I started doing a bit of searching. I found out that this music had actually been written by non-Adventists for Adventists. Then when I went and looked at these, the singers who were singing the song, we're not Adventists singing for Adventists.

Then I began to look at some of the other music that these musicians would perform, and these people would perform with Dolly Parton in the country music scene, and all of that kind of stuff. Can sweet and bitter water come out of the same fountain? I began to be a little bit alarmed. But there's something devilish. It's like, this little voice comes up in the back of my head saying, "Adrian, you are so conservative. It's just the music is good. Come on, lighten up a little bit. Don't be so stuck in the mud, you know." You've already given up heaps of stuff. You gave up heaps of stuff, didn't you? Allow me to take it from you, you've given this up. What? Giving up.

So, I began this little self-righteous discussion about, "Don't be a pharisee. Don't be a pharisee." But the Lord kept pressing me and things were getting more and more difficult. One morning, I was in the kitchen area with my wife, we had a gas stove. It was cool. I often would do this, I just get close to the stove area. I've done this many, many times before and we're talking and I said, "Honey, do you really think there's something wrong with this music? I'm really concerned."

Suddenly she screamed. She said, "Your jacket." I go, whoa. I hold out the back of my jacket, my jacket's on fire. I rip it off and I'm going, "I'm going to get rid of this music. It's going to kill us." I went in, I deleted it all. There was a spirit in that music. Do you know, we have an illustration in the in the book of Numbers when the children of Israel were coming into onto the borders of Canaan. Do you remember

the story of the Israelite prince who took the Moabite woman and a plague began to be released in Israel because of this event? Do you know that the two characters in that story are Zimri, who is the Israelite Prince, which means musical, and Cosby, the Moabite woman, her name means falsehood?

The union of falsehood with music was used to plague Israel. I would like to suggest to you that Israel is under a massive plague of a spirit of falsehood. Have you ever wondered, why so many of our brethren that we've tried to share the truth of God and His Son with, and there's nothing there? Have you ever thought that maybe a spirit of deception, a spirit of guile? Again, I'm not trying to say that we're not susceptible to these things as well. We're not, but I'm just speaking at that level. That the reason why many people can't see these things is because the spirits are deceiving. Against, I don't want to put everything onto spirits. But we know that they're there. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers.

That was such a shock for me to realize. I would say this to you, unfortunately or sadly, in many homes, there are homes that get used to conflict in the home. Things that happen to people just happen. It's just life. As if our Father somehow is, He's limited in his protection of us. Yet when we are engaging in things like this, we are opening doors. When the children of Israel murmured and complained, and that's another thing, when God's people get together, at some point, the devil will try and break out murmuring and complaining. When the murmuring and the complaining breaks out, the asps come into the camp and begin to bite the people.

All these things we're up against, at this point in time, Satan is going to want to bring all of this into the equation. The final point, and this is something that I'm still struggling with this, but I offer this to you. I don't have the full answers on this. But I think most of us are aware that the spirit that it attends our worship of the Trinity is a different spirit from the spirit that attends a believer in the Father and His Son do. There is a different spirit, is that right? There has to be because one is the Spirit of truth. Because one is true, and the other is the spirit of guile and deception.

Now, when the daughters of Babylon are engaged in the worship of their gods, what spirit is it that attends their music? Is it the Spirit of the Father and His Son or is it another spirit? I have begun to ask a question about when I'm watching YouTube videos that are being performed by people not of our faith, or even people that we have come from in our faith, what is the spirit that attends the music? Do I want that spirit in my home?

Now I want to hasten to add that we don't want to create an environment of when someone wants to share something with us, that we do the separating ourselves, but we need to be discerning of what we listen to and what comes. Therefore, what spirit is coming into our home and what's affecting our mind as we read the Word of God. This takes wisdom. I'm still trying to work out, well, I'm not sure. I'm trying to be much more careful about the types of things that I will listen to, particularly of a musical nature but also of a speaking nature.

It's not that I want to lock myself away, I just want to be discerning about the spirit that I'm allowing because my spirit is very susceptible to the spirit of the evil one because I've grown up with that, that's my nature. When the devil speaks to me, it's often like the sound of my own voice. That's really, really scary, because he's walked with me a long time as well. I wanted to lay all these points out for you, both for this appointed time and for when you go back home about these barriers to intimacy, these things that make our home an unsafe place because the spirits come in, and tear us apart, and cause confusion, and deception, and all these things. So, my prayer is that as a continuation of the atonement, that the cleansing will continue and deepen.

That we will remove from our lives, CDs, movies, books with symbols or whatever that do not honour the Father and His Son, and we purge these things out of our lives so that we can hear the sweet voice of our Messiah. Can we pray together?

Father in Heaven, I thank you that Your Word has warned us believe not every spirit. For there are many false spirits that have gone out into the world. As John says, again, at the end of his epistle, "Little children, keep yourself from idols." Father, I pray that you would help us all here to come out of the spirit of Cain and to believe that you love us despite what we have been and what we know ourselves to be inside, that you will enable us to engage in a spirit that will allow vulnerability and openness and so that their sense of fellowship can begin. Father, that we would not joke with each other. That we would not say things that we don't mean, even of the most innocent nature, it only takes a small crack to allow another spirit to come in and begin to affect the mind. Lord, I have failed on this point again and again and again. I ask your forgiveness. I pray that the words of our lips and the meditation of our heart will be acceptable in your sight. Oh Lord, our God and our Redeemer, in Jesus' name, amen.