“SPEAK YOUR MIND”

Speak your mind is a phrase I have heard all my life, and another is like it, “I say what I think.” Well, to some that is speaking their mind.

I like the instruction of James, “But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:” (James 1:19) Most people are far too swift to “speak their mind.” And in so doing they are not “slow to speak.”

Sometimes people will say that they spoke “without thinking.” Such is impossible. What they really mean is they spoke on impulse and did not carefully consider what they said. Over the years I have learned to “bide my time” when it comes to commenting on something, anything.

The mind is a tricky thing. People remember things, especially unkind things, or things said in the spur of the moment, for a long, long time, even some for the rest of their lives. It is just that the thing said made such an impact on their brain that they cannot forget it.

A friend said one time about another friend of long standing, “He said something to me 20 years ago that I still remember, and I know he didn’t mean it, but it has stayed with me.” Far too many times this happens and sometimes, it leaves a deep, unintended wound.

Someone has said that “God gave man two ears and one mouth, therefore he should listen twice as much as he speaks.” Good advice anytime. And as to wrath, James goes ahead to say, “for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” (James 1:20)