

## 20 Questions for Confirmation

### Q11: Do actions speak louder than words?

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**Introduce the Question:** Do actions speak louder than words? Can we truly judge a person's character based on their words, actions, or both? What do you think?

For centuries, people have judged and persecuted others by the words that they have said or the things that they have done.

- Can you think of a time that this happened to you? (positive or negative outcome) Please share.

Technology has made it easy for “news” to travel fast. The world we live in is quick to judge based on what we see or what we do.

- Can you share an example?

Fifty years ago, businesses would use surveillance to deter crime and for security purposes. Mostly used in banks, convenience stores, and jewelry stores. However, today we are at a whole new level of surveillance: traffic lights, parking lots, parks, hospitals, hotels, doorbells, and even our own mobile phones. What you do will be seen and will be judged long before you speak any words. Actions do speak louder than words. This aspect of our society is considered to be preventive (prevent crime) as well as reactionary (who did the crime).

We have now mentioned how crimes and personal character can be judged by what we say or do, but what about our relationships with others? Do our actions speak louder than words?

Let's take a look at another example of actions speaking louder than words.

**Video:** [Actions Speak Louder than Words | Ashton Rego | TEDxKids@ElCajon](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzBrQmRbQ9o)  
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**Video Response:** What do you think about the message from the kid in the video? What does he say about actions speaking louder than words?

- Actions speak louder than words in relationships.
- Can we be forgiven for using bad words or bad actions toward another person?

### What does the church and God say?

- At baptism we are asked to proclaim the good news in word and deed. We are living out the story of Christ in us.
- **Acts 5:43** “.and every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.”
- **John 17:18** As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.
- **Matthew 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Response:** Read each Bible verse, and discuss it with the theme. Does God place more meaning on actions over words?

**Something to think about:** A favorite quote by St Francis of Assisi, a Franciscan monk, once stated, “Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words.” Inferred in this saying is that actions do not need words. Actions do speak volumes about character. St. Francis might take this a bit further by believing that our actions might be the only Jesus some people ever see. **What do you think? What might be some current examples of such actions?**

Unsung heroes are an example of such altruistic actions. National organizations rely on the physical help provided by volunteers: Lutheran World Relief, The Red Cross, Green Peace, Meals on Wheels, and Habitat for Humanity, to name a few. On a local level there are many unsung heroes that help those in need. Even organizations and clubs, like scouting, build on “doing a good turn daily.” Keep us mindful to help those less fortunate. **What about you or our community?**

**Prayer:** Are there any prayer requests about people in our local community or community of the world?

Dear God:

We seek prayers of guidance in the many examples of ways you taught us to love one another and how our actions can speak louder than our words. We ask you to give us patience to think about how our words and actions can be helpful or hurtful to others. Please forgive us when we have fallen short. We ask you to give encouragement and support to people in the world and in our community that show compassion toward others. Help us to honor you by showing your love through us.

Amen