

## e-concepts

A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc. By Dr. David DeWitt

### Godly Men in the Bible Did Not Always Use Soft Words, Neither Did God

God said:

- *I will **spread refuse** on your [the priests'] faces (Malachi 2:3), I have come **to hate** her [Judah] (Jeremiah 12:8), I Myself have also **stripped your skirts off** over your [Judah] face that your shame may be seen (Jeremiah 13:26).*

David wrote some pretty harsh words and did some tough name calling:

- *that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, **men of bloodshed** ...Do I not **hate those who hate You, O LORD?** And do I not **loathe those** who rise up against You? I **hate them with the utmost hatred** (Psalm 139:19-22).*

Jesus was talking to the Pharisees, and He said:

- Matthew 23:15 *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites**, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a **son of hell as yourselves**...*
- Matthew 23:17 *You **fools and blind men**....*
- Matthew 23:24 *You **blind guides**, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!.. For you are like **whitewashed tombs** which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*
- Matthew 23:33 *You **serpents, you brood of vipers**, how will you escape the sentence of hell?*
- John 8:44 ***"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.***

He even told Peter:

- Matthew 16:23 *Get behind me **Satan** you are a **stumbling block** to Me.*

Jesus' half -brother Jude also used some rough language to describe false teachers:

- Jude 12-13 *These are the men who are **hidden reefs** in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; **clouds without water**, carried along by winds; autumn **trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves** of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; **wandering stars**, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.*

Paul told the Ephesians to only use words that were *good for edification according to the need of the moment* (Ephesians 4:29). But when he was dealing with a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-jesus, we read:

- Acts 13:9-10 *But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, and said, **"You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"***

Paul told the Galatians,

- Galatians 5:12 *I wish that those who are troubling you would even **mutilate themselves**.*

Just before Stephen was stoned to death, he said this, being filled with the Holy Spirit:

- Acts 7:51 *You men who are **stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit.***

Biblical characters sometimes used harsh words to describe sinful thoughts and actions of people who were opposing the kingdom of God. The words were descriptive, expressive, graphic, detailed, vivid, striking, and explanatory. They were not vulgar expletives or character assassinations. Rather, they were words that get our attention. They communicated a vivid description which would not be communicated accurately with gentle words. By using salty language, the ones telling the truth connect those descriptions to false teachers, hypocrites, God-haters, depraved, or someone adulterating or bastardizing the Word of God. Jesus said: *"Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves..."* (Mark 9:50).

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P.O. Box 141456 • Grand Rapids, MI 49514