

## A Pun My Word; Did I say That?

I know I've touched on this subject a time or two already, but it keeps occurring to me just how crucial our choice of words can be. David, in Psalm 19 ends it with, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, Oh Lord." This scripture highlights the reality that whatever we ponder on in our hearts, eventually comes out of our mouth. And that's when the seed gets sown.

Seed? Absolutely. Jesus starts his key parable in Mark ch. 4, with, "The sower sows the word." Here we have a metaphor or picture coming out of gardening or farming. What do farmers sow? Why seeds, of course. So when we open our mouths and utter words, either 'winged words' or daggers spitting forth from a forked tongue, we are planting either a curse or a blessing seed in the mind of the hearer.

Our word seeds will grow up to be either fruitful carriers of the truth, or weed-like babblings that choke, blur, or muddy the message.

A related scripture reads, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." (Mat. 12:34) And John quotes Jesus as saying, "The words I speak unto you are spirit, and they are life." (6:63) A beloved old time hymn

delivers the message well: “Sing them over again to me,/ wonderful words of life/ ... wonderful words, beautiful words wonderful words of life.”

But words can also be “fiery darts” launched from an evil heart and spirit. That’s what Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels specialized in when he sowed the German newspapers with hateful words slandering and dehumanizing the Jews. The harvest Hitler reaped from that slander was the holocaust, and the murder of millions of innocent people.

Sometimes the human mind chooses to brood over words sprouting trouble. Here’s such a “meditation” entertained by Queen Cleopatra and smoldering with lust at the thought of sleeping with Marc Antony once more: “I dreamed there was an emperor Antony..Stands he or sits he, or rides he on his horse? O happy horse to bear the weight of Antony.”Of course that adulterous daydream climaxed in the death of both of these famous lovers whose names appear in Dante’s *Inferno*, (*Hell*,) as well as Shakespeare’s play cited above.

We’ve just endured an election in which many very hateful seeds were sown; some, I think actually leading to the attempted assassination of Donald Trump. Would that the old time mutual respect for one’s “worthy opponent”

might raise the tenor of political discourse to a higher, more civil level, marked by friendliness and good will.

I think the public's suffering months of harsh, poisonous rhetoric has lead to an almost universal discontent, which in turn has caused countless broken relationships and a general mood of distrust. It's time we all learn that our choice of words about "the things we set our hearts upon," weather they be seeds of blessings or of curses will bring forth crops, either of heartfelt praise or poisonous condemnation.

We must resolve to look for the good in people and speak of them in words bearing "spirit and life,"befitting their true identity as beloved "children of the most high God," created in His image for a specific, beneficial purpose. (Jer. 20:11.)

When we discover our purpose, the one for which we have been gifted, we can look forward to a future of good success.

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