

A Word Not Fitly Spoken
(Ephesians 4:29)

Introduction:

1. This morning our lesson was based on the statement Solomon made in Proverbs 25:11.
 1. He mentioned "*a word fitly spoken*" [saying the right thing, at the right time, in the right place, to the right person, in the right way, and for the right purpose].
 2. Its beauty and value are compared to "*apples of gold in pictures of silver.*"
 3. We examined 6 of the many fitly spoken words in the Bible.
2. In Ephesians 4:29 we are instructed to avoid words that are not fitly spoken.
3. In our lesson we are examining 6 occasions when Bible characters used words that were not fitly spoken.
4. Our purpose is to help us avoid their mistakes.

Discussion:

- I. THE ISRAELITES DID NOT USE FITLY SPOKEN WORDS WHEN THEY MURMURED AS THEY TRAVELED TO THE PROMISED LAND
 - A. We read about 3 occasions when they murmured in:
 1. Exodus 15:23-24
 2. Exodus 16:2-3
 3. Exodus 17:2-3.
 - B. Christians must avoid their mistake (1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14-15).
- II. THE 10 SPIES DID NOT USE FITLY SPOKEN WORDS WHEN THEY GAVE THEIR REPORT (Numbers 13:31-33)
 - A. Their report caused others to murmur (Numbers 14:1-4).
 - B. God punished many of His people by not allowing them to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:28-33).
- III. JEPHTHAH DID NOT USE FITLY SPOKEN WORDS WHEN HE MADE HIS VOW
 - A. His vow is recorded in Judges 11:30-31.
 - B. When he returned home his daughter met him (vs.34).
- IV. THE PHARISEES DID NOT USE FITLY SPOKEN WORDS WHEN THEY ATTRIBUTED THE LORD'S POWER TO BEELZEBUB (Matthew 12)
 - A. Jesus cast a demon out of a man (vs.22).
 - B. Some people had a positive response (vs.23).
 - C. The Pharisees said that the Lord's power was from Beelzebub (vs.24).
 - D. In His response Jesus had a word fitly spoken for them (vs.34, 37).
- V. THE DISCIPLES DID NOT USE FITLY SPOKEN WORDS WHEN THEY CRITICIZED MARY (Mark 14)
 - A. Mary performed an act of kindness for the Lord (vs.3; John 12:3).
 - B. The disciples criticized Mary and murmured against her (vs.4-5).
 - C. Jesus responded with a word fitly spoken (vs.6-9).
- VI. AGRIPPA DID NOT USE FITLY SPOKEN WORDS IN ACTS 26:28

Conclusion:

1. Let us avoid the mistakes made by these people who used words that were not fitly spoken.
2. Let us always practice the instructions given in Ephesians 4:29.