

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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*For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. (Matthew 12:37)*

Words in a time of warfare are crucial to the success of the mission. Words that define the method of military operations are often classified. Not every soldier on the front line of the battle knows all the details of what the objectives are or what they are to defend. Some things are gained and lost because the right or wrong words were communicated. Think about the advice we teach to our children when they are complaining about what someone said to them or about them. We tell them to remember that sticks and stones may break our bones but words can never hurt us. This is another human wisdom philosophical fallacy. Words can indeed hurt us. Words can indeed help us. *Just words...* we hear that description used occasionally in our culture. The implication is that actions speak louder. If you have ever been on the cutting edge of critical and harmful words you know their power. For the *weaponized* warrior of Christ to be effective in the war we are engaged in we must master the use of the weaponized word.

This passage contradicts popular thinking that our words are insignificant compared to our actions. Jesus is teaching that words are very powerful. Words can justify or words can condemn. They can vindicate, convict, absolve, and console. We often take for granted their power, especially when they convey the power of God. Jesus uses the word pictures of good and bad fruit. Everyone has eaten good fruit and tasted bad fruit. One gives pleasure, the other gives unpleasant experiences. Good fruit and bad fruit grow on good trees and bad trees respectively. Only in God's kingdom do we find it improbable, if not impossible, to find one bad fruit growing on any good tree.

Jesus spoke these words to those who condemned His work when He healed a demonic mute man who was blind. He was accused of being in league with the devil when He cast out demonic spirits. When He was accused of being an agent of Satan's kingdom He exposed the dangerous and deadly claim for the foolishness that it was. The words of condemnation of God's work in this type of warfare are still being spoken in the earth today. But the words of condemnation are so powerful they condemn the accusers. And the Words of Jesus justify the guilty. And you and I can be the beneficiaries of God's good word.

As we learn to use the weaponized word of God, our lesson today is to be very careful of the words we speak concerning the work and word of God. Like a weapon we didn't know was loaded, we can harm ourselves in the worst of ways through careless use and lack of discipline. Although we are called upon as warriors from time to time to speak the Word of God, we do have the right to remain silent when silence is the better option. No loose cannons in this King's arsenal!

The article above is from the website section of *Weaponized*. These articles are gleaned from the monthly daily Bible reading and I often use as a springboard for conversation with some in the congregation who read them. Also we use them as discussion in our Wednesday night small group meetings. I also find the articles valuable to start a witnessing encounter with someone in our culture who does not have a clue as to the warfare we are engaged in. They only know of becoming a casualty of this war. Please check out the website and encourage folks you may know to consider becoming a Weaponized Warrior of King Jesus.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam