

**"But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things"
2 Corinthians 11:6**

If I only had a dime for every time a fellow believer told me my preaching was 'to harsh' I would be a very rich man today.



Let us look at just a few verses in the Bible where we find this 'harsh' or strong language used from inspired men of God who preached in public.

EZEKIEL

**"For she doted upon their paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of asses, and whose issue is like the issue of horses"
Ezekiel 23:20**

What this man of God just said was those genitals are as large as a donkeys and whose semen was like that of horses. Oh my, the street preaching community would be offended and what would the comments have been if facebook and youtube had been around, if that was said today OR anything near that. That would be considered too much sexual content for preaching about a holy God.

Now before that statement was made he used words like "whoredom" and said "came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her, and her nakedness and harlot." So we do get the context of what he is saying, he is talking about sex when making his point.

Face it today many open air preachers would have issues with our dear brother Ezekiel for using sexual context to make a description.

Now there is a reason I used Ezekiel, because I know many would quickly say "that is the Old Testament Ruben, you can not use that verse, we are under the New Testament" as this seems to be the generic answer whenever we use an Old Testament man.

If that is true, are we not to use anything from Ezekiel? Do these same believers not know that we have prophecy not yet fulfilled from that book? Ezekiel 38 and 39 for example has not happened and yet they say we are not to use this book? Bad answer.

Or they may say that the language used was only for that time and not for today, as if that waters down what was said. The point is, he used sexual innuendos while preaching.

In fact this prophet used many sexual expressions when warning his generation of sin, as another time he said; **"Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy**

neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger"
Ezek 16:26

Although this saint gets his tomb polished every Sunday from pulpits worldwide, if however those same preachers that quote him, would have kept away from him and considered him to be fleshly preacher and not led by God. His reputation would have been too offensive, too disgusting, even too repulsive, yet that is what our God wanted him to speak.

I like many of you, get accused of 'going too far' but I say we are not going far enough.

ISAIAH

What about our beloved Isaiah who said; **"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."**

Friends, had he said that today it would have sounded something like this; "We all are unclean and your righteous acts to a holy God looks like a used bloody Kotex." That is from the 'RSV' translation or better known as the 'Ruben Says Version.'

Isaiah's preaching would have been offensive today and he would have been judged to be in the flesh for just for that one statement? He said some very offensive things that are offensive when compared to the neutered generation we live in today.

"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward"

Is. 1:4

...And...

"But you--come here, you witches' children, you seed of the adulterer and the whore"

Is. 57:3

What he said was ordained by God, so if you had issues with him, one would have issues with God who told him to speak those words.

ELIJAH

If the modern Church would have witnessed Elijah mocking the false priests of Baal in 1Kings 18:27; **"And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked."**

Now he was mocking them as they cried and cut themselves **"till the blood gushed out upon them."** How unloving he was, not to mention he did not even weep for their souls when fire consumed them. How despicable was that. Today he would be considered an unloving negative prophet and this by the open air community. He should have just asked, "Have you ever told a lie? And what does that make you?"

But this man of God mocked those priests and where is the soul winning in that?

Elisha

What about his disciple Elisha? Well that apple did not fall far from the tree, as in 2Kings chapter 2 we find Elisha getting mocked by **"little children"** for being bald and the scripture reads when he looked back at them he **"cursed them in the name of the LORD."**

Say what,

he did what in the name of whom??



After those words came from his mouth, two shebears came out from the woods and ripped apart 42 little children. This is beyond abrasive language, he cursed those children. We don't have much commentary books or sermons used on that story and I wonder why.

Today Elisha would have been told that he should have rebuked those kids instead of cursing them, he should have prayed for those kids or maybe talked with their parents, perhaps he should have just chalked up that 'bald statement' to persecution....but instead he cursed them.....and.....in the name of the Lord.

Well, I hate to say this, but God honored that prayer. These are not just verses of that encourage strong language but actual examples from men of God who did things that the modern day believer would find appalling. I believe Elijah and Elisha would get accused of 'going too far' not just with the modern Church but open air preachers.

Malachi

Let us not forget the beloved prophet Malachi who said; **"Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts" Malachi 2:3**

Now if we use the 'Ruben Says Version' again, it would read like this, but PLEASE make sure your tray table is up, safety belt on and your seat is in the upright position as the RSV reads; 'I'm going to punish you people and spread **shit** on your faces, even **crap** on your sacred days.'

Oh I can only imagine the comments written on facebook and youtube for that one. Something tells me that Brother Malachi will not be invited to speak at many Churches for being so abrasive and ruthless not to mention cussing for God.



Now again, many of the Bible scholars will scratch their beards and say, "Ruben, these verses you are using were all said to religious people and not unsaved people." As if that is suppose to mean something to me.

At least we know those words were said and that's good, that's a start. Now regarding the 'religious people comment' my response goes like this. We live in a religious generation. We live in a world where there are hundreds of thousands of different sects from just the several major religions; even atheists are technically a religion. Being tolerant and not judging is a religion as they try to use Bible verses. New Age and WICCA is a religion, as everyone has their own holy books, be it religious, or some may call them science books from their seminaries or better known as colleges, nevertheless they are considered holy writing and their followers have faith in those books as I do the Bible.

We live in a religious generation, this is the theater we live in and there is none like it. Everyone is saved, everyone is good, everyone is chosen, everyone has their own heaven or paradise after death, and everyone has faith in something or someone and even themselves. So if someone wishes to say that these things were only said to religious people, that answer gives me much liberty to use those verses to the people of our world today.

Harsh words are found everywhere in the Bible. Words like 'whore', 'wholesome', 'whoremonger', 'whoring' used over 100 times, we find words like 'bastard', 'bastards', 'dung', 'piss' and 'pisseth' in our Holy Book but don't ever try to use them or you will be considered unloving and hateful.

Now let us look at a few examples in the New Testament because there is consistency for using harsh language and it is not contained to just the Old Testament.

JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Enter, John the Baptist, here is a man most Baptist Churches would not allow to speak from their pulpits just by his dress code alone....or lack thereof. Let alone what he preached and his method.

Like you, I always get my motive judged. But would these same people that wish to judge the motive of John? Would they ask John as they ask me, do you really love these people that you preach to? Have you ever wept for these people that you preached to? How often do you pray for these people and what truly is your motive for preaching to them John?

The Baptist preached 'repent' and had people confess their sins in public as fruit of their repentance and like any good old open air preacher, he even name called; **"O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come."**

How many people would question John's motive for saying; **"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire"** or would they have judged him when John publicly rebuked the king for sleeping with his brothers wife? Many would have falsely accused John of deserving to go to jail for calling out the king as he reaped what he had sown.

Where is the spirit of John the Baptist today, Come out, come out, where ever you are. If John's ministry was to escort the entrance of the Son of God and many believe that we live in the 'end times' of the return of Jesus, should there not be more John the Baptists preaching 'repentance' to usher in the return of Jesus to the whole world.

STEPHEN:

What about the motive of Stephen in Acts chapter 7 when this saint preached a solid history lesson and ended his open air message with these words; **"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers."**

Is he ever questioned for saying this, like we are when we preach? Is his motive ever probed and was he ever accused of name calling and using unkind words by those to read the Bible? Was he charged with provoking the crowd just to get a response like we get accused?



The same people that said we provoked the Muslims in Dearborn would have accused Stephen of taunting those people to kill him. The comments on facebook or youtube would have questioned his motive for using insulting words which only provoked the stoning of Stephen.

Stephen was filled with the Holy Ghost and this is an open example of what someone sounds like who is full of the Holy Ghost. The 'Dearly Belovedism' believers of today would have issues with that outdoor message.

Would they critic Stephen, and told him, what was he doing out there, his ministry was to feed people not yell that them. There was no love and forgiveness mentioned in that preach, not enough Gospel and why insult them Stephen. Conclusion, he deserved to get stoned, he provoked them and of course, Jesus would have never done it this way. Was he even prayed up? Many would have concerns with that message as Stephen would have been alive if he just asked them "Have you ever told a lie and what does that make you?....."

PAUL:

In Acts 13 we read where Paul said to a particular sinner that he was full of **wickedness "and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"** and it is noted that he (Paul) was full of **'the Holy Ghost'** when he said that. Oh, did I forget to mention he cursed this sinner with blindness? This sheds light on how to pray for your enemy.

In Galatians chapter 5 we find Paul writing on the issue of being circumcised and those that come into the Church and promote keeping the law. Paul addresses those who are causing issues in the Church, that they should just castrate themselves. Can we say harsh words?



I don't know about you but I always have people question my motive for preaching.
So I ask.....

If a person's motive for preaching is not love, would he be considered in error?
If so, then Paul may be in danger, because he was moved by 'terror' to preach, witness and debate men into the kingdom, as he writes.

"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences"
2 Corinthians 5:11

And this is from the same guy that wrote; **"Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ"**

Yes, he is the same person that wrote; **"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering"**

He writes to another Church warning them **"Beware of dogs"** as he speaks of evil workers or actual humans. Where is the love and is that going to get them saved? Didn't Jesus say pray for them and wasn't he was once like them, where is the meekness you write about Paul?

He rebuked the Galatians for being foolish, now is this the meekness he was talking about?

QUESTION, what is your definition of the word 'meekness' .

Let us define the word 'Meek' by using the Bible. Let us allow the Bible to define the Bible by using the Bible. Who is meek in the Bible?

We find a verse where Moses was the meekest man, so now we have an example to this word. Numbers 12:3 reads; **"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth"**

So we now have a living example of this word in question. So let us examine the life of Moses to describe this word 'Meek' and here are just a few highlights of this man Moses:

- A) We know when he was young, he witnessed someone beating his countryman and Moses killed that person, is that in your definition to the word 'meek?'
- B) He was angry when he saw the people dancing around a golden calf, is that in your definition to the word 'meek?'
- C) In fact there are a number of verses when we find Moses was 'very angry' and is that in your definition to the word 'meek?'
- D) He asked "who is on the Lord's side" then commanded those to be executed who were not, is that in your definition to the word 'meek?'
- E) He questioned God and Jewed God, is that in your definition to the word 'meek?'
- F) Did Moses stretch the story when he told Pharaoh in Exodus 3:18-19 that the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with them, and he pleaded to the king to let the children of Israel go three days' journey into the wilderness, that they may sacrifice to the LORD, knowing they were going to flee the land and not come back, is that in your definition to the word 'meek?'

The examples are countless as this living word 'Meek' as it is not some tiny timid person that lives in a peaceful shadow.

G) Oh and just in case you are wondering, who wrote that passage about Moses being the meekest man on earth.....that would be Moses who wrote that about himself. Again, if this is not your definition to the word 'meek' it is you that has a problem.

Paul was severe with his pen as well as his mouth, as this is what he wrote about the sin of sodomy in Romans chapter one; **"....Who changed the truth of God into a lie, God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, without natural affection, unmerciful....(and....he continues that they are).....worthy of death"**

Meek Paul is not tolerant of sin as this man of God is direct. Nothing sugar coated there, Paul was harsh in both letter and word.

PETER:

Peter uses the word **'dogs'** in his Epistles as he writes regarding one who goes back to the world as a dog that returns to it's vomit (2Peter 2:22).

How gross is that visual and from a man of God? Why is Peter not sensitive, someone could have just eaten before reading that verse and how does that visual glorify God?

In Acts chapter 8 we find Peter full of the Holy Ghost saying to Simon the sorcerer that he needs to repent of his wickedness, as he continued **"For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity."** Peter calls them as he sees them, candid and to the point as he did not try to find a medium ground with people.

JESUS:

What about Jesus, were His words coarse, word is on the street that he was all about love?

Jesus spoke more on hellfire, outer darkness, weeping and gnashing teeth, eternal fire, everlasting fire, where the worm dies not, torment, damnation, greater damnation and beating more any other subject.

He reproved people and rebuked His disciples for being faithless and at times His denounce and slammed His entire generation. Does anyone dare question His motive?

He said to pray for our enemy then He makes a whip and chases everyone out of the Temple. What Christian will question that? He rebuked the religious world of His day, in fact Matthew 23 is an entire chapter given to rebuking them His enemy. We find a verse where He upbraided those cities that did not repent. He **'Woed'** or cursed cities that no longer exist, he said to someone that wanted to follow Him, **'Let the dead bury the dead'** and to others **'Go and sin no more.'** He said; **"You are of your father the devil"** and called the king a **"fox"** a woman a **"dog"** and even said to His disciples **"if you then being evil."**



The legalists of that day had a filed day with Jesus, as He rarely quoted a verse verbatim and generally couple at least two verses together. Not to mention, in His preaching He used more stories than quoting scripture. Many open air preacher today would take issue with that.

He said **'let the blind lead the blind and they both will fall into the ditch'** and called people **'blind guides'** now had that statement be made today. He would have been sued by the Braille Institute or the media would have demanded He apologize for that crude and uncalled for

statement. Jesus was insulting and even offensive as with the rich young ruler, who walked away offended. As He said he was like a camel into the eye of a needle for that rich man to inherit the kingdom of God, how abusive, where's His Bible reference for that?

He said pluck out your eye, chop off your hand, eat His flesh, drink His blood, **"for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves,"** are those not harsh words?

To say that Jesus used strong language is an understatement. In the book of Revelation, he said to an actual Church in Asia; **"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" Revelation 3:15-16**

Wow, Jesus telling a Church that they should either be on fire for God or go and be a cold sinner. Have your heaven on earth, as that is all you get. He said, get hot or get cold because He will vomit you out from His mouth, now that's a nice visual.

Jesus was very frank as He called people hypocrites, said they were twofold more the child of hell, used the word 'fools,' described people as serpents, evil and vipers, yet many believe that all He spoke was God loves you. What Bible do they read, Jesus was harsh and blunt with His words. He warned us of casting pearls to dogs and not giving something holy to a swine. He even made a statement, not to worry about the poor, you will always have the poor and told His disciples that He was not going to pray for the world.

If Jesus is our example, how can someone say that we have 'Gone too far,' I say most open air preachers do not go far enough.

THE TWO WITNESSES:

What about the two witnesses in the book of Revelation chapter 11, did they walk around saying 'God loves you' or 'Jesus died just for you?' Did they sing songs and give away free water to sinners? Did they preach 'have you ever told a lie, and what does that make you....?' No these two witnesses were dressed in sackcloth and according to scripture what came from their mouth was not "we love you" but **"fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies."** These were some harsh men, that **"tormented them that dwelt on the earth"**



Were these two men of God offensive, ya think? Only to the entire world as we find that consistent from the Old to New Testament, where of men of God proclaimed words that if many would hear today would be considered callous, ruthless and even brutal? And we do not have one example of anyone preaching 'God loves you' in public, yet it is so common today.



"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"