

FOOLISH WORDS

(1 Samuel 14:24-46)

1. We should be **BLESSING**, not **CURSING** one another! (Luke 6:45; 1 Corinthians 13:7; Romans 12:19; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6; James 1:26, 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
2. My **FOOLISHNESS** hurts others. (Deuteronomy 12:23-25; Ephesians 4:30-32; Titus 3:2; Numbers 32:23; Luke 8:17; Philippians 2:3-4)
3. Beware of following **MAN'S** directions and expectations more than **GOD'S**. (Romans 12:2; Acts 5:29; Deuteronomy 13:4; Genesis 6:22; Galatians 6:10; Proverbs 29:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Matthew 18:6-7)
4. Before pointing out others' **FAULTS**, make sure we first address our **OWN**. (1 Peter 4:17; Titus 1:16; Matthew 7:3-5, 15:7-9, 23:27-28; 1 Corinthians 11:31; Lamentations 3:40; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 6:4)
5. Consider the consequences of my **WORDS** before I **SPEAK**. (James 1:19-20; Proverbs 11:17, 12:18, 15:1, 15:4, 18:20, 20:15, 21:23; Matthew 12:36)
6. **STAND** up and **SPEAK** up for what is right. (Isaiah 1:17, 56:1; John 7:24; Colossians 1:28-29; Galatians 6:2; Ecclesiastes 4:10; Micah 6:8; Proverbs 18:24, 31:8-9)



Taking it further to help you **THRIVE...**

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place.

We don't want to just say "See you next week" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!

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1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Saul seemed to be heading into battle motivated by a personal desire for revenge (**verse 24**). What are the dangers of placing personal desires and feelings ahead of a desire for greater good for all? What are some ways we see this acted out today?
3. *Saul's* rash oath/curse (for the people to not eat) actually contributed to their sin / violation of *God's* law (**verse 32, Deuteronomy 12:23-25**). Saul put a restriction on the people where God had not put one - an element of what is known as 'legalism'. Can you think of an example of how we (in the church) hold a rule or standard of man higher than God's Word? Why is this dangerous? How can we help prevent this from happening?
4. We see in these verses two more examples of the high cost / consequences of hastiness. Saul's order almost cost Israel the battle (and their lives) and his vow to kill the one who had sinned almost cost the life of his son (had the people not stepped up and stepped in.) What does it take to *not* be hasty? To *not* speak so quickly 'in the flesh'? What is the difference between 'responding' and merely 'reacting'?
5. Saul seemed very taken aback that the people had sinned (**verse 33**), yet we see no remorse or regret on his part regarding his own improper actions and rash words. Read **Matthew 7:3-5**. What are the speck and the plank referring to? Why are we often so quick to notice others' flaws and faults while being slow to deal with our own? What is the key/main word in **verse 5**? How can we live such as to not become this kind of person?
6. The people stood up and spoke boldly in favor of Jonathan. Scripture tells us that "*the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die*" (**verse 45**). When is it right to stand up and speak up on behalf of someone? When (if ever) is it wrong?

