



Motorcycle Mary Swearing on Stage

A few years ago I was asked to speak at a Woman's Conference in Emporia, Kansas. The keynote speaker was a lady named Vicki Hitzges – she gave a very motivational speech and I loved watching her captivate the audience. She did a great job and in listening to her speak, you just knew that she was a woman that loved the Lord. Then it was my turn to speak – I was at the beginning of my speaking career and I was – well, how do I say this? RAW with my words – if it came to my mind – I spoke it. I have always spoken from my heart, but remember that I crawled off a barstool to teach this and I still had some of my **STRONG** bar room vocabulary – and I must admit that I used it on stage out of habit.

The crowd was responding well to my speech and that just pumped me up more. I sold more books and CD's that day then ever – so I must not have offended too many people, but even I – Motorcycle Mary, must say that the sailor in me had come out in force.

When I crawled off the stage, Miss Vicki came over to me, grabbed my hands, looked me square in the eye, and with that southern Texan accent said, "Honey, you are a great speaker, with a great message, but you have got to quit swearing on stage. Not every audience will appreciate that." (I said she was a lady, not a fraidy cat) I replied "I don't know what the _ _ _ _ you are talking about!" (Just kidding, I didn't say that)

I could have been offended, but when someone offers you a bit of constructive advice that will help your life become better...it doesn't hurt to listen and apply it. She was speaking from her heart and I realized that I wasn't on stage to prove to people that I could cuss...I was up there to help people become better caretakers of their money. I still slip up once in awhile, but it is an honest mistake.

We have stayed in touch over the years and I still appreciate her guidance. She's a great person and a superb speaker – check out her website at <http://www.vickihitzges.com>.