

****James 3:12** “My brothers, can a fig tree bear olive, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. Take a careful look at your speech.

Proverbs 16:28 “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.”

B. Talk to the Lord and confess the sins of the tongue.

Proverbs 4:24 “Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.”

Ephesians 4:25 “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”

Colossians 3:8 “But now you must rid yourself of all such things ... slander and filthy language from your lips.”

I John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

C. Turn the control over to the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 “So I say live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control.”

D. Think before you speak.

Proverbs 16:24 “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

Tame with the Tongue!

James 3:1-12

Lesson #6

6/2/24

James 1:19 “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

James 1:26 “If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue deceives himself, and his religion is worthless.”

James 2:12 “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.”

James 4:11a “Brothers, do not slander one another”

James 5:12a “Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth, or by anything else”

Proverbs 12:18 “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

I. Those who teach are warned about the use of their tongue.

****James 3:1** “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

Romans 2:21 “You then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?”

Romans 2:22 “You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law, do you dishonor the law by breaking the law?”

Romans 2:23 “As it is written, “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

I Corinthians 9:27 “No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

2 Peter 2:1 “But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves.”

Matthew 29:19-20 “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. [20] And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded. And surely, I am with you always, to the very ends of the age.”

****James 3:1** “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

****James 3:2** “We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.”

I John 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

I John 1:10 “If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

****James 3:2b** “... If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.”

II. There is great power wielded by the tongue.

A. The tongue is compared to a small bit.

****James 3:3** “When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.”

B. The tongue is compared to a small rudder.

****James 3:4** “Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.”

Proverbs 18:12a “The tongue has power of life and death”

Psalms 141:3 “Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

III. The life of a person can be wrecked by the tongue.

A. The tongue is compared with a small spark.

James 3:5 “Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.”

B. The tongue corrupts the whole body.

****James 3:6a** “The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body”

1. The tongue is a world of evil.

2. The tongue spreads evil.

****James 3:6b** “... It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire,”

Numbers 14:1 “That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.”

Numbers 14:2 “All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!”

Job 16:2 “I have heard many things like these; you are miserable comforters, all of you! ^[3] Will your long-winded speeches never end? What ails you that you keep on arguing?”

Job 19:2 “How long will you torment me and crush me with words? ^[3] Ten times now you have reproached me; shamelessly you attack me.”

Matthew 12:34b “... For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

3. The tongue is Satan’s tool for evil.

****James 3:6c** “... and is itself set on fire by hell.”

Matthew 12:36 “But I tell you that men will have to give an account on the day of judgement for every careless word they have spoken.”

IV. The tongue is wild and cannot be tamed by man.

A. The tongue is completely untamable.

James 3:7 “All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind.”

James 3:8 “But no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

B. The tongue can be unpredictable.

****James 3:9** “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness.”

Psalms 105:1 “Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. ^[2] Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.”

****James 3:10** “Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”

****James 3:11** “Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?”