

JAMES LESSON 5
CHAPTERS 3: 1 – 9
REAL FAITH SPEAKS TRUE

***KEY VERSE: JAMES 3: 6**

A. INTRODUCTION

a. IN OUR JOURNEY THROUGH JAMES, WE ARE VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE TONE OF THIS EPISTLE. JAMES COMES ACROSS MORE LIKE A PREACHER THAN A TEACHER. HE SOUNDS MUCH MORE LIKE A PROPHET THAN A PASTOR. YET HE'S GOOD MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL! JAMES, LIKE A CARING PHYSICIAN, HE HAS OUR BEST INTEREST IN MIND, EVEN THOUGH HE MUST TAKE EXTREME MEASURE AT TIMES.

b. IN THE LAST LESSON, JAMES 2: 14 – 26 JAMES EXPOSED HOW WORTHLESS FAITH CAN BE IF IT HAS NO REAL EXPRESSION IN LIFE. JAMES CHALLENGED HIS READERS TO TAKE FAITH – FILLED ACTION SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF HURTING PEOPLE.

***JAMES 3: 1 – 9**

c. JAMES IS NOT SO MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WE DO AS HE IS ABOUT WHAT WE SAY – JAMES DEMANDED RIGHT ACTION! JAMES DEMANDS RIGHT SPEECH.

d. WHAT JAMES SETS FORTH IN JAMES 3: 1 – 9 CAN LITERALLY TRANSFORM OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND HOW WE RELATE TO THOSE ABOUT US. IF WE ALLOW THE GRACE OF GOD TO APPLY THIS LESSON TO OUR HEARTS, AND IF WE SEEK THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO OBEY, OUR LIVES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN AFTER STUDYING THIS PORTION.

***PRAYER: ASK GOD TO HELP US UNDERSTAND AND DO HIS WORD.**

***ISAIAH 59: 21 – WHAT A WONDERFUL PROMISE FROM THE LORD**

***ACTS 2: 17 – 18**

***JOEL 2: 28**

e. NOT ONLY IS THE SPIRIT PROMISED TO US AND OUR OFFSPRING, BUT GOD WILL PUT HIS WORDS INTO OUR MOUTH – FOREVER. THE CLOSE ASSOCIATION OF THE SPIRIT AND GODLY SPEECH IS NO ACCIDENT. IN ORDER TO TRULY SPEAK FOR ANOTHER, ONE MUST KNOW THE HEART OF ANOTHER.

***JAMES 3: 1 – 9**

f. THE WORDS WE SPEAK SHOULD COME FROM THE HEART OF GOD. – WE NEED TO PRAY AN EXTRAORDINARY PRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT – THE KIND OF PRESENCE THAT WILL PUT THE VERY WORDS OF GOD IN OUR MOUTH.

***JAMES 3: 1 – 9**

B. DISCOVER

***JAMES ADDRESSES A SINGLE TOPIC: WAYWARD SPEECH**

***AS WE STUDY BE ON THE ALERT FOR IMPORTANT WORDS AND CONTROLLING IDEAS**

***QUESTION: WHOM IS JAMES SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING IN JAMES 3: 1?**

***QUESTION: WHERE ELSE CAN YOU FIND THE WORD OF JUDGEMENT IN JAMES?**

***JAMES 2: 1 – 31**

***QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE FOUND THAT JAMES SET FOR IN 3: 3 – 5?**

***HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE FOUND IN JAMES 3: 11 – 12?**

***QUESTION: WHERE DO YOU THINK JAMES HAVE OBTAINED THE WORD – PICTURE JAMES 3: 7?**

C. DISCERN

***JAMES 3: 1 – 9**

a. THESE VERSES CONTAIN SOME OF THE MOST VIVID WORD – PICTURE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

b. SOME OF THE THINGS WE SEE

- 1. ASPECTS CONCERNING JUDGEMENT AND JUSTICE**
- 2. CONTROL OVER THE WAY WE SPEAK TO OTHERS**
- 3. ALWAYS KEEP THE GOAL IN SIGHT**
- 4. NEED TO BRING OUT THE SENSE OF THESE SCRIPTURES**
- 5. FOCUS ON WHAT THE SCRIPTURES MEAN**
- 6. ALL WE DO IS TO MOVE US IN THE DIRECTION OF THAT GOAL.**

***JAMES 3: 1 – 9**

c. THESE VERSES ARE OF THE MOST COLORFUL SECTIONS OF THE BIBLE, BUT IT IS ONE OF THE MOST CONFRONTATIONAL AS WELL.

***REMEMBER, JAMES HAS ONLY OUR WELFARE IN MIND**

***WE NEED TO STOP AND SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE IN YOUR WORK**

***TALKS ABOUT OUR INDIVIDUAL LIFE CONTEXT AND MAKE THIS KIND OF STUDY POWERFUL**

***WE NEED TO ALWAYS PRAY FOR THE SPIRIT'S LEADING AS YOU DRAW DEEP INTO THE HEART OF GOD.**

***PSALMS 19: 14**

d. WITH THIS PRAYER, THE PSALMIST GETS TO THE HEART OF JAMES TEACHING IN JAMES 3: 1 – 9

e. JAMES UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WORDS WE SPEAK ORIGINATE IN THE MUSING OF OUR HEART – JESUS TAUGHT THAT IT IS NOT WHAT GOES INTO A PERSON THAT LEADS TO SPIRITUAL DEFILEMENT, BUT WHAT COMES OUT OF A PERSON BY THE WAY OF WHAT HE OR SHE SAYS – THIS IS WHAT UNDERMINES OUR SPIRIT.

***MARK 7: 18 – 22**

f. TWO THINGS THAT GOD USES TO ACCOMPLISH IN OUR HEARTS:

1. PRAY THAT JAMES MESSAGE FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERS THE WAY YOU THINK AND FEEL IN YOUR HEART.

2. PRAY THAT AS A RESULT OF GOD SANCTIFYING WORK IN YOUR HEART THERE WILL BE CORRESPONDING CHANGE IN THE WAY WE SPEAK.

***THIS IS WHAT JAMES IS AFTER IN THIS SECTION**

g. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO ADDRESS SOME MAJOR FEATURES OF THE SPECIAL PASSAGE. THEY ARE INTENDED TO HELP YOU RENDER A GOOD INTERPRETATION OF JAMES 3: 1 – 9

1. THERE ARE MANY CONTROLLING ELEMENTS IN THIS PASSAGE SUCH AS:

- GUIDING**
- STEERING**
- TAMING**

WE SHOULD SEEK TO DISCERN THEIR FULL MEANING

2. CONTRAST THE STRONG WINDS IN JAMES 3: 4 WITH THE WIND OF JAMES 1: 6

3. NOTE THE “SMALL – LARGE PATTERN OF THIS PASSAGE AND RELATE IT TO THE “TONGUE – BODY IMAGE.

D. DEVOTE

a. JAMES EMPHASIZES WE HAVE BEEN CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

***GENESIS 1: 26 – 27**

b. OUR FIRST INTRODUCTION TO GOD IN THE BIBLE LETS US KNOW THAT GOD IS A SPEAKING GOD

***GENESIS 1: 3**

c. WE TOO, BEING CREATED IN GODS LIKENESS, ARE ABLE TO SPEAK. SO THERE IS SOMETHING “DIVINE” ABOUT HUMAN SPEECH.

***GENESIS 1: 1 – 24**

d. BECAUSE OF THE FALL, JAMES SAYS THREER IS SOMETHING DEVILISH ABOUT HUMAN SPEECH AS WELL. IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT TO READ THE TEXT OF THIS LESSON WITHOUT SENSING THE CONVICTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

***JAMES 3: 2**

e. JAMES SAYS “WE ALL STUMBLE IN MANY WAYS” THEN HE GOES ON TO VIVIDLY PORTRAY SINS OF SPEECH.

***JUST HOW WE COMMUNICAL WITH ONE ANOTHER MERITS A CONTINUAL STATE OF PRAYER**

***DEVOTE STEP IS ALL ABOUT CHANGE**

f. IT IS HERE THAT THE SPIRIT CHALLENGES US TO “OWN” THE INTERPRETATION WE’VE WORKED SO HARD TO PRODUCE. WITH REGARD TO HOW WE SPEAK, WE NEED THE CONSTANT MENTORING OF THE SPIRIT. THERE IS NO SHAME IN THIS, FOR EVEN THE PROPHET ISAIAH NEEDED SPECIAL GRACE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF GOD.

***ISAIAH 6: 5**

***ISAIAH 6: 2, 6, 7**

***GREEK: CATHARSIS IS TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE GREEK WORD KATHARIZO WHICH MEANS “TO CLEANSE”**

***JAMES 4: 8**

***ACTS 15: 9**

***1 JOHN 1: 7**

***WE MUST PRAY THAT THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTINUALLY CLEANSE YOUR SPEECH SO THAT YOU CAN BE A PURE VOICE FOR HIM.**

***MATTHEW 3: 11**

***LUKE 3: 16**

***QUESTION: DO WE WELCOME JAMES CHALLENGES INTO YOUR LIFE?**

g. WE MUST ALLOW GOD TO SPEAK TO THE AREAS OF YOUR LIFE THAT ARE IN NEED OF CHANGE

***JAMES CHALLENGE IS DEEPLY PERSONAL**

h. WHAT CAN BE MORE PERSONAL THAN THE VERBAL EXPRESSION OF OUR INMOST THOUGHTS

i. WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT THE WORK OF GOD IN OUR LIVES DOES NOT ALWAYS HAPPEN ALL AT ONCE. IT OFTEN TAKES TIME. THE LORD CONTINUES TO WORK IN OUR LIVES.

***JAMES 3: 1**

j. EVEN IF YOU DON'T VIEW YOURSELF AS A TEACHER, THE GREAT COMMISSION REQUIRES EVERY CHRISTIAN TO "TEACH" AS WE GO OUT AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

***MATTHEW 28: 19 – 20**

***JAMES 3: 1 – 9 ARE BINDING UPON EVERY TRUE BELIEVER**

***ON A SCALE OF 1- 10, WITH 10 REPRESENTING COMPLETE CONTROLL. – HOW MUCH CONTROL DO YOU HAVE OVER WHAT YOU SAY?**

***OF ALL THE IMAGES THAT JAMES USES TO DESCRIBE UNCONTROLLED SPEAKING, WHICH ONE DESCRIBES YOU BEST?**

***IF NO ONE CAN TAME THE TONGUE, THEN WHO CAN TAME IT?**

***JAMES 3: 8 – 9**

k. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ALL BEEN CREATED IN GODS IMAGE, EACH OF US IS UNIQUE IN OUR PERSONALITIES AND EXPERIENCE. THIS MEANS THAT GOD MAY BE SPEAKING TO YOU VERY DIFFERENTLY THAN WHAT HAS BEEN OUTLINED ABOVE.

***ROMANS 8: 29 GOD WANTS US ALL TO BE CONFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON**

***THE TRANSFORMATION OF YOUR WORDS INTO THE WORDS OF JESUS**

E. DISCIPLE

a. JAMES IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE BELIEVER ENTERTAINING GOOD THOUGHTS – HE IS ALL ABOUT ACTION

***THIS IS THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP**

b. WE ARE TO:

1. WELCOME

2. AFFIRM

3. EMPOWER

GOD A REDEEMING ACTION IN OUR LIVES. PERHAPS THE MOST PUBLIC AND INFLUENTIAL WAY THAT THIS HAPPENS IS THROUGH WHAT WE SAY – A LIFETIME OF WORK CAN BE UNDERMINED BY A SINGLE, CARELESS WORD.

c. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME PRACTICAL COMMITMENTS TO HELP US WITH OUR EVERYDAY SPEECH MORE PLEASING TO GOD.

***JAMES 1: 19**

***ROMANS 12: 2 FILTER MY THOUGHTS**

*** PHILIPPIANS 4: 8 SAY WORDS THAT REFLECT GOD**

***TITUS 2: 7 -8**

***THE QUESTION IS: IS WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY MAKING THINGS BETTER OR WORSE?**

d. JAMES MESSAGE IN 3: 19 POSES REAL CHALLENGES WITH REGARD TO DISCIPLING OTHERS. THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE IS SO CLOSELY LINKED TO OUR PERSONAL IDENTITY – SO IT CAN BE A DELICATE MATTER TO MENTOR OTHERS ON HOW THEY SPEAK.

**NEXT WEEK – JAMES 3: 10 – 18
REAL FAITH SPEAKS WISDOM**

