

**James 3 “Speaking Faith”**  
**James 3:1-12**  
**October 6, 2024**

**James 3:1-12**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers,[c] these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

**James 1:26-27**

**26** If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. **27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

The power of words.

If you master your words, you master your life.  
How can our words be helped or healed?

**James 3:1**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

Our works and words will be rewarded.

**Luke 12:48**

“But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”

Teachers will be judged with greater strictness.

Three examples; a horse, ship and spark.

James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

Proverbs 12:13

An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble.

Proverbs 12:18

18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Words create worlds.

Words reveal.

Matthew 12:33-37

**33** "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. **34** You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. **35** The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. **36** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, **37** for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

What do we do?

James 3:10

10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

A heart change creates a word change.

### **Life Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- James tells us about the power of our words. Have you tried to tame your tongue? Did it work? How has God helped you in this area?
- Why do words have a lingering impact? Can you recall something that was said to you years ago? Was it positive or negative?

- Why do we enjoy talking about someone else behind their back?
- Maybe you've heard the statement "preach everywhere you go and if you have to use words." What is wrong the idea that it is our actions and not our words that really matter?
- How does this section of James prompt you to reflection on and consider your words over the past few days? Is there something you have said that you need to correct or repent from? How might you go about seeking forgiveness?
- Can Jame's instructions also apply to social media, emails and text? In what ways?
- How does thinking about our speech cause you adore Jesus more by the way he used his words?
- How can your Life Group support you in applying this passage to your life this week?