

Watch Your Mouth

Pastor Tommy Creutz | James 3:1–12

ICE BREAKER:

If you had a 'rewind and delete' button to go back to a moment this week and 'delete' something you said, what moment would that be? If you don't want to share WHAT you said, share WHY you would go back.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

How has James described the power of the tongue in the first two chapters? Review James 1:19 and verse 26. How does this week's passage further your understanding of faith and works?

Read Proverbs 10:19 and 17:27-28. What does it mean to be slow to speak? How do these passages emphasize the power of the tongue?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read Matthew 12:34 and Luke 6:45 as a group. How do the words we say reveal what we care about? How should our speech be influenced by the Gospel?

In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin—how does that truth inform the way we see our responsibility around and ability to control our tongue?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

James says it's inconsistent to bless God and curse people made in His image. Jesus perfectly honored both the Father and people—how does following Him call us into that same integrity?

What areas of the tongue do you struggle with—gossip, crude words, cursing others, slander? Share what area you struggle with in groups (breaking up into groups of men and women) and ask for prayer and accountability to break those habits.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Parenting: Explain the importance of our words - that they can build up or tear down. Help them pick a friend or family member to encourage this week.

Spouses: James 3:5b says, "How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!". Have there been any forest fires set by your words with your spouse this week? Confess any area like this to the Lord, knowing he forgives us, and with him we can find grace to help us in times of need. Ask your spouse for forgiveness.



True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

In the days leading up to next week, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

1. Read through James 3:13-18. What is the text saying about wisdom? How does godly wisdom change how our behavior and how we make decisions?

2. Take a moment to look up the definition of 'meekness' as it is used in the Bible. How does this impact your reading of James 3:13-18?

3. Looking back over James 3:1-12, where do you see examples of the tongue being driven by pride instead of humility/meekness? Since the tongue has potential for such destructive potential, how are we called to respond?

4. The words 'selfish ambition' are brought up twice in this part of James chapter 3. What influence does selfish ambition have on our lives, and what does James say we should do about it?

5. What in this text confuses you?

6. What in this text compels you?

7. Psalm 19:12 says, " But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults." Take time to pray before the Lord for him to reveal any errors where you have lacked wisdom or walked in disobedience. Then read James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you". Spend time in prayer asking that the Lord would give wisdom and humble us in our relationships towards others.