

James 3:1-12, ESV – Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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! <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup> From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

# Notes:

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# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of July 21, 2019 James 3:1-12

## **QUICK REVIEW**

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## **ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE**

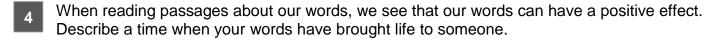
This weekend we were reminded that our words have an effect on people, including ourselves. How can our words affect ourselves? How can they affect others?

- 2 Describe a time when you were affected by someone else using words in a negative fashion? How did you feel? Have you ever done this to someone?
- 3 How do we avoid danger words? How can we hear the voice of God and follow Him in this area?

#### **DIGGING DEEPER**

**Prov 10:11a, ESV** – The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.

**Prov 16:23-24, ESV** – The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips. <sup>24</sup> Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.



B Prov 10:11b, ESV – but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Prov 10:14b, ESV – but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

Prov 15:1b, 2b, ESV – but a harsh word stirs up anger.<sup>2</sup> but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

- In contrast, we see that our words can have a negative effect. Describe a time when your words have caused ruin or folly.
- 7 What does "conceals" mean in Provers 10:11b? Where does a person conceal, or hide, these negative attributes?
- **Ps 62:4b, ESV** They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah

*Matt 7:15-20, ESV* – <sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

- B James is clear that this vacillating allegiance is not acceptable and should not be present in the life of a believer. How can a Christian align themselves rightly and consistently stay in alignment?
- 9 Jesus tells us we will know where someone stands based on their fruit? What does He mean by "fruit"? Where does all fruit, good or bad, have its root?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

James exhorts all believers to be careful with their words. What would it look like for you to develop a consistent life style of speaking life and not speaking folly? What steps do you need to take in order to be better at speaking life?

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ps 32:8-9 Matt 12:33-37 James 1:26

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