

“Sizing Up Our World of Talk”

James 3:1-12

Pastor Bruce Henry

Sunday AM, November 27, 2016

1. God Speaks.

Recognize the importance of words.

Genesis 1:3; Psalm 33:6-9; Hebrews 11:3

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:16-17; 12:1; 2 Timothy 3:16

2. Satan Speaks.

Recognize the cunning and deceptive words of the serpent.

Genesis 3:1, 4-5

3. People Speak. James 3:1-12

Recognize the great responsibility of teaching God’s Word. 3:1

Recognize the great potential of sinning in what we say. 3:2

Recognize the great power of the tongue. 3:3-6

Recognize our inability to tame the tongue. 3:7-10

Recognize that our words are an indication of our hearts.

3:11-12; Mark 7:14-23; Luke 6:43-49

4. God Speaks to the Fallen, the Dying, and the Hopeless.

Recognize God’s provision for the imperfect words we have spoken and the imperfect words we have believed. Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4-5

5. The Church Speaks.

Recognize our responsibility to speak the truth in love to one another. Ephesians 4:11-16

Recognize our responsibility to take the Gospel to our neighbors and to the nations. Romans 10:14-17

I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE TO INFLUENCE MANY. James 3:1

II. THE POTENTIAL OF THE TONGUE TO INDICATE MATURITY. James 3:2

III. THE PICTURES OF THE TONGUE THAT ILLUSTRATE MEANING. James 3:3-8a

A. The Horse and the Bridle. 3

B. The Ship and the Rudder. 4

C. The Forest Fire and the Spark. 5-6

D. The Animal and the Animal Trainer. 7-8a

IV. THE POISON OF THE TONGUE THAT INFECTS THE MOUTH. James 3:8b-12

Here are two types of poison that can infect the mouth.

A. Gossip - “Saying behind a person’s back what you would never say to his face.”

B. Flattery - “Saying to a person’s face what you would never say behind his back.”

IS THERE A REMEDY?

1. Pray daily that the Lord will keep us from gossip, flattery, and other sins of the tongue.
2. Do not talk unfavorably about anyone; love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).
3. If we have something against a person, let us go to him directly, discuss it in love, and pray together (Matt. 18:15; Luke 17:3).
4. Let us try to see Christ in our brethren instead of magnifying minor failures.
5. If we start to say something unkind or unprofitable, let us stop in the middle of the sentence and explain that to continue would not be edifying. Some things are better left unsaid.