

James 3:1-12 – May 15, 2022

Straight Talk About Talk

J.D. Farag

All right James, Chapter 3, beginning in verse 1. If you could please stand. I'll ask you to follow along. If not, where you're seated is fine.

James, by the Holy Spirit is writing and says, *verse 1*, **“Not many of you should become teachers, [Too late] my fellow believers, [And here's why] because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.**

We all stumble in many ways [Verse 2]. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal

Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

Likewise, [Verse 5] the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

How are you doing so far? You okay? We're almost - We're just reading the text. We haven't even...

Verse 7, “All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.

My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

Let's pray, if you would please join with me.

Father in Heaven, we're - (Sigh) We're so thankful to You for Your Word and we're so thankful to You for inspiring James to pen these words. Even though it was back then, this is

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for us now. And we need to hear and take heed to Your Word and that which You have here for us today in Your Word.

So Lord, settle us and quiet our minds and enable us by the Holy Spirit to focus so You can speak into our lives as You are always so faithful to do. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen and amen. You can be seated, thank you.

Okay, so what I want to talk with you about today is “talk,” specifically, straight talk about talk as fellow believers in and followers of Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters in Christ.

In the text that's before us today, James by the Holy Spirit addresses what is arguably the biggest troublemaker. So maybe if I couch it in these terms - Do you know who the biggest troublemaker is in this church? Don't look at the person next to you.

[Laughter]

You don't need to. it's not a person; it's the tongue, the biggest troublemaker in the life of a Christian and certainly in the life of a church. And here's why.

Our tongues and what we're capable of doing with our tongues when we don't control the uncontrollable tongue, can do unspeakable damage.

Just with this – I think somebody figured out how many ounces this piece of flesh weighs inside of our mouths, in my case, big mouth.

But this tongue is really powerful and it's uncontrollable and no man can tame it, and we've got a serious problem here with this thing. So what are we going to do?

Well, that's where James comes in by the Holy Spirit. I want to share with you five things that every Christian needs to know concerning our tongues and our talking.

And by the way, I'm so glad that you're here today. You can get up and leave now because we'll notice if you do.

[Laughter]

Okay, here's the first one and I am keenly aware that as a Pastor and teacher, this applies chiefly to me. So be nice to me on this one, okay?

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How we talk can be judged strictly. James starts out by saying that those who desire to become a teacher of God's Word should know that it comes packaged with a stricter judgment, and there are a couple of reasons for this.

One of them is again, as we just talked about, the words that we speak, especially as teachers, have the propensity to impact one's life for all eternity, whether for good or for evil.

So those who teach - it's a good thing. Those who desire - it's a noble thing. But just know what the fine print is on this one.

Oh, you desire to be a teacher of God's Word, this gifting of Pastor/Teacher? You better know going in that you're going to be judged by a much higher standard because you're going to be speaking and teaching the Word of God and speaking into people's lives. And the impact of what you say can impact their lives for all eternity.

And then if this weren't bad enough, the problem is we all stumble and are imperfect when it comes to what we say. And let me say at like this: The more we say, the more we sin.

This is *Proverbs 10:19*. Your turn is coming next so listen to *Proverbs 10:19*. **“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.”**

I was thinking about this, very interesting, notice that it doesn't say he who restrains his teeth. You know that white fence that's supposed to keep that tongue inside? It doesn't say teeth. It says lips.

Here's why. You can still talk through your teeth.

[Laughter]

Try to do that with your lips shut. Mmm-mmm. [Talking with mouth closed]

No-can. Oh, restrains his lips. The more you say, the more you sin. **“In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking.”** And this is, when it comes to teachers of God's Word, this is that which we will be judged by.

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I want you to know, I hope you know, the Lord knows my heart, I take this very seriously. I know that I will give an account one day for my teaching of God's Word, rightly dividing God's Word, being a teacher of God's Word.

I know I sometimes make light of it, and you're so gracious to indulge me when I do. Because I picture it as you know, there's going to be a line when we're there and there's going to be a line, a special line for teachers. I'll be in that line.

And you're going to be in a different line and your line is going to go a lot faster than my line.

Will you wave at me on your way in and say hi? Please don't say I've never seen that guy before in my life. (Chuckling) Because I'm going to be in that line for a long time because I'm going to have to give an account as a teacher of God's Word. Every teacher of God's Word will have to give an account, every word.

Here's the second one. It is in verses 2-4. And this is interesting because how we talk can be constructive. James draws upon two examples in order to explain how it is that something so small can control something so big and so powerful.

And so first, he uses this example of a small bit controlling a very powerful horse. And second, how a very small rudder can control a very large ship.

In other words, our tongues, though very small, can be used in a constructive manner to maneuver and navigate and control and be productive.

Listen to Proverbs 15:4. By the way, I'm going to be borrowing from the Proverbs significantly today. And I would encourage you because the Proverbs are replete with passage after passage concerning specifically the tongue and what we say and the words we speak.

Proverbs 15:4, "A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but [Look at the contrast] perverseness [A perverse tongue] it breaks the Spirit."

That's pretty powerful, isn't it?

Yeah, but it is so small.

Well, just like the ship; have you seen the rudders on some of these ocean liners?

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You're looking at that thing saying, this is disproportionate to the size of the ship.

Yeah, but that's all it takes, very small.

But something so small when it's controlled can be so powerful for good, for good.

Well, this kind of dovetails into our next one. While the tongue can be constructive, so too, conversely, can the tongue be very destructive.

Here in verses 5 - 6, James now sort of turns this corner and talks about how our tongues, very small, can just start just a little tiny spark and set on fire an entire forest by the fire of hell.

Oh, this is how we say it: It comes from the pit of hell. That's exactly what he's saying. You know, bear with me because I don't know if it's possible to overstate the paramount importance of what James is saying here concerning the power of the tongue.

Something so small as our tongues are a world of evil?

Yeah. And they can do huge damage, irreparable damage, setting the whole course of one's life on fire. Just one little itsy-bitsy spark is all it takes. Just one little, 'psst, hey,' that's it. And then the destructive fire that ensues burns everything in its path.

Proverbs 18:21, **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”**

Let's just talk about this for a moment. Don't just read that proverb and then just move on. Because what it's saying is that our tongues have the potential to kill or give life. That's how powerful they are. These are deadly. They're deadly and this is what James says next in verses 7-8.

How we talk can poison and kill. James presents a conundrum of sorts. He says that while man can tame the animals, no man has been able to tame the tongue.

And if this were bad enough, he goes on to say that our untamed tongues are a restless evil. He just got done telling us they're a world of evil.

That's bad enough on its face, but now not only a world of evil, they're actually restless. You know it, it means to be restless, right? You're agitated and kind of antsy and restless.

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What are you, so restless for?

Evil. And that's not all. A world of evil, restless for evil, and full of deadly poison that can kill. Think of it this way: I can poison you.

And no, I am not talking about that. They're already... nevermind, that's the Update.

But I can poison you. Did you know that? How am I going to poison you?

Oh, I can poison you with my tongue and it can be so poisonous that it's a deadly poison. And here's what that looks like and sounds like and is like.

I can poison you about someone else. I'll say something – I can – I don't do this. Other pastors might, but I don't do this.

I can say something to you and poison you concerning a brother or sister in Christ, and you will never look at them the same way again. And the enemy knows this, by the way, because you're guilty until proven innocent, not the other way around. Come on!

All it takes is just one spark of an accusation and now you're poisoned, and you'll never be able to look at them the same again. I'm going to go ahead and use this example, and I believe I have the permission of the Holy Spirit to do so.

I don't have it in my notes, but here's an example. Hey, did you hear? Listen, when someone starts off like that, run, run.

Did you hear?

What?

Did you hear about so-and-so?

No!

Oh, we're so good at this. We frame it as: We need to pray for them.

No, what? What's going on?

Oh, I hear they're having marriage problems. Oh, I hear he was unfaithful.

Wait a minute. Are you bringing an accusation? Is that a false accusation? Because even just uttering those words and saying that about them to them, that's it, they're guilty.

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You have poisoned and killed, and I'll say it like this, you have assassinated their character. You've assassinated their character with this deadly thing in your mouth. It's a poison, a deadly poison. You've just poisoned somebody. You've just killed somebody. You've assassinated their character falsely. It's a false accusation.

This is why it is in the New Testament – I mean, it is so powerful and so clear.

Never, ever, ever, ever, ever entertain an accusation against an elder without the presence of two or more witnesses. Because all it takes – I'm getting worked up and I'll tell you why I'm getting worked up because I've seen this destroy people's lives. I've seen it destroy churches.

All it took was one little spark from one ugly, ugly, poisonous tongue making one false accusation. And it destroyed the whole church.

I'm sorry.

Oh, be careful, please. You can destroy someone's life.

Let's talk about children. You know how we talk to our children?

You can destroy their lives by what you say to your children as their parent. And not necessarily just as a parent. You can poison that mind of that child and set the whole course of their life on fire just by the words that we speak. Life or death, life or death.

I want to draw your attention to *Proverbs, the 26 Chapter*. I'll begin reading in verse 20.

“Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.

[And then verse 22] The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts. Like a coating of silver dross on earthenware are fervent lips with an evil heart.”

You know how it is, and we're all guilty of this, it's our sin nature, our human nature, our adamic nature, if you prefer, but we all want that juicy morsel of gossip.

No. What? What?

Oh, we love it, and we want more of it. We want to hear gossip.

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“Enemies [Verse 24] disguise themselves with their lips, but in their hearts, they harbor deceit. Though their speech is charming, do not believe them, for seven abominations fill their hearts. Their malice may be concealed by deception, but their wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.”

Stop right there. Thank you, Jesus. I needed to hear verse 26.

Did you catch that?

Oh, they will try to conceal it, but their wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. In other words, you're going to out yourself. You'll be exposed.

And it's even worse than that, *verse 27*, **“Whoever digs a pit will fall into it; if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them. A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.”**

I want to be gracious, I want to be loving when I say this, so please hear my heart on this, okay?

When we talk to people about people, why are you doing that?

Hey, how are they doing?

No, what happened?

Wait, wait, wait, wait. Why are you coming to me? Why don't you go ask them?

Hey, I have an idea. I know it's a crazy idea, but instead of talking about them, why don't you pray for them? Instead of gossiping about them, why don't you pray for them? Or better yet, go talk to them and see if you can be an encouragement for them.

Oh, I know why, we just got done reading why in the Proverbs. You don't love them. In fact, you know what? You hate them. This is malicious-s. They're malice-s-s Emphasis added. Sorry.

It's malicious. You should probably know that you won't get away with it. You might think you got away with it, but God's going to have the final word on your words.

Because if you're trying to set a trap or dig a pit, you're going to be the one that goes into that pit that you tried to get someone in because that's what you're doing.

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You know that, right?

When you - you - you guys are like, “you”?

Okay, we, we, is that better? Okay, we. When we do this, what we are doing is we are tearing them down to build ourselves up.

Problem: You're going to go down because you're tearing them down Oh, you are digging a pit to throw them into?

We would say it like this in our day, 'You threw them under the bus.' That's horrible, by the way. Whoever came up with that, that's horrible. You know, you could do without that imagery, I think. You threw them under the bus. And that's what we do.

But here's the thing. You're going to be the one that's going to - Is this too much? You're the one this going to be under the bus! You're going to be thrown under the bus because you tried to throw them under the bus. You dug the pit. You're going in. You're going down. No, but you want them to go down to build yourself up.

One more thing and we'll move on to this last one that I'll spend the remainder of our time on.

If you were to ask me this question: Why do you think it is that people talk?

Let's just take within a church and please know I am so - this church is an amazing church by the grace of God. I tell people all the time if I wasn't the Pastor of this church, this is where I would go to church. I mean, you guys are the real deal. So I'm talking in general terms.

Let's just take the example of a church setting. Why is it - here's the question - Why is it that people talk about people in the church? What does it accomplish and why do they do it?

Well, the number 1 reason is because everyone loves gossip. It's like a magnet to steal with our sin nature. It's delicious. We want that juice, we want the dirt, we want the tea, I think it's the newest one, 'the tea'.

Okay, don't look at me like that. You can fill in whatever metaphor you want to use. The skinny, that's a good one. 'I want the skinny.' That's what – I don't think they use that one anymore. But okay, what's the skinny? What's the, you know?

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We love that. You know why?

Because we want to know that they're having problems in their marriage because then we feel better about our marriage. We want to know that they're having problems in their finances, so we feel better about our finances. We want to hear about what they're doing or not doing because we just fancy ourselves as all right. It makes ourselves feel better.

But I'm going to propose another reason and we actually see it at the end of 2 Timothy. I can't give you chapter and verse off the top of my head, but the Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy says, there are going to be those that you need to pray for, that they come to their senses because the enemy is using them to do his bidding.

Wait, what, Pastor? I thought Christians couldn't be demon possessed.

No, I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about Satan being able to use Christians to destroy a church from within because he cannot do it from without them.

So we're going back to our question and our example of a church setting. Why do people in a church talk about people in the church?

Because Satan is using them to do that which he cannot do otherwise. They are people that Satan has somehow used to destroy from within, to create division, because as Jesus said, **“A house divided cannot stand.”**

Don't think for second that Satan doesn't know the Scriptures better than we know the Scriptures. He knows exactly - And here's another one.

If it's by our love, one for another, that were going to be known as His disciples, then wouldn't it stand to reason that our backbiting and gossiping and devouring of one another should be an honest question about whether or not we're His disciples?

In fact, when the Apostle Paul is writing to the Galatians, it doesn't get any clearer than that. He says if you guys keep doing what you're doing...

What were they doing?

They were gossiping and biting, backbiting and devouring each other. He says you're going to destroy each other. If you keep doing this, you're going to destroy each other. You're going

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to destroy the church. You're going to destroy your brothers and sisters lives. You're going to devour one another if you keep doing this.

Stop, stop it!

Um hmm... One of the things that has been astonishing to me; It probably shouldn't be, but it is. I'm just sharing my heart with you is the viciousness of Christians in these last days towards Christians.

I mean let's rewind. I could say probably three or four years ago, I don't remember it being this bad. It's so bad, the viciousness on the part of Christians. You know what I'm talking about, right? Hiding behind that keyboard or that device on social media, the viciousness.

This is what James is talking about. You'll forgive me, I know I shared this in the past. I think it's apropos to share it now. And we're going to see this in a moment.

Do you know - I want you to think through this with me - that every single post you and I post on social media we will have to give an account for? Every tweet, every comment, every whatever, we're going to have to give an account for that.

You know you can - and we're believers? We're brothers and sisters in Christ?

You know this is something we talk about on Thursday nights. We're in the Book of Jeremiah and it's what I refer to as the disconnecting, disenfranchising of one's self from the application of the text and I will explain what I mean by that, especially with the Old Testament and especially with the Book of Jeremiah, it's very easy, I guess you could even say is very forgiving of doing this.

You're reading about the judgment that's coming on Judah. They're going to be taken into captivity by the Babylonians because they refused to repent and turn back to the Lord. And it's so easy for us to read that and go Oh, I would never do that.

Oh.

Oh, those Israelites; you know, here's the judgment coming, and they refuse to repent and receive correction. And they say peace, peace when there is no peace. And the prophets are prophesying falsely, and the priests are corrupted, and the people love to have it so.

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And we look down our noses on them and we disconnect ourselves from the text as if it doesn't apply to us.

Oh! Congratulations, you've done exactly what Satan wants you to do. So there's a disconnect. We disenfranchise ourselves from the application of the text.

And such is the case here, if I could just be so candid with you. It's going to be very easy for us to, with this passage, just even as I'm - Come on, let's be honest.

Even as I'm up here teaching, for which I'm going to be strictly judged, by the way, someone is coming to mind. No, no, no, stay with me.

Oh, they need to hear this. I think I'll send them a link.

[Laughter]

Oh, really? Could it be that you need to hear this? That's what I mean by disconnecting and disenfranchising ourselves from the application of the text.

Oh, man, they talk stink about everybody.

Oh, how do you know?

You know, okay, again bear with me. You guys were so gracious to me. I appreciate it so much.

Okay, pride; let's talk about pride because it's at the core of everything, right? So let's talk about pride for a moment, okay?

Oh, they are so arrogant. They are so full of themselves. They are so full of pride.

Oh, how do you know? I'll tell you why you know. You know that expression, "Takes one to know one?"

How do you know what pride looks like were it not for the fact that you're full of it! Sorry, that came out really bad. You get the point, right? I know someone who's full of pride because I'm full of pride. That's how I know. I know that smell. Eau de pew is what I call it.

[Laughter]

Stinks - You're talking stink and the reason I know you're talking stink is because I talk stink.

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Man, I better try to bring this in if I can, if it's not too late.

It's the speck in my brother's eye, my sister's eye. How do I know there is a speck there?

Because I've got the telephone pole from which that speck came.

Now that's what Jesus is saying, by the way.

Here we are, we're all you know, we're all that. Hey, brother, let me help you with that speck of pride in your eye. How did you even see it?

Oh, I'll tell you why you saw it. Because you've got the telephone pole.

No, in the original it's the same. That speck came from the pole. And that's how you know.

That's how you know what pride smells like and looks like because you're so full of pride, that's how. It takes one to know one.

So before we get all high and mighty and start thinking about “they” need to hear this, could it be that, yeah, you might want to send them the link for that speck, but before you do, we've got to deal with that telephone pole that you have.

Come on Pastor, I don't gossip about people.

Hmm. Okay, let's just say for purpose of discussion yeah, maybe you're not doing that like that where you're bearing false witness or entertaining an accusation without the presence of two or more witnesses. You're not just outright talking stink. But how about this? A little more s-subtle.

You'll s-say s-something about s-someone and it comes packaged in the wrapping paper of murmuring.

Oh, that's almost worse in some ways. You don't believe me? Ask the Israelites about it. Ask Moses about it. Ask Aaron about it.

Complaining and murmuring? Oh, it's right up there. You know what's really – and I would encourage you in your own time in God's Word to do a study, and I'm talking about the epistles where the Apostle Paul will what I'll call will grocery list these things. Things like sexual immorality, murder. I mean it's just horrific, the list, and then gossiping.

Wait, murder, sexual immorality, gossiping, on the same list?

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Yeah.

You mean gossiping rises to the level of being on the same list as murder?

Yeah. You know how? Because you're murdering someone in your heart Yeah. That's what Jesus said, right?

I mean, talk about raising the bar. I think He threw the bar away. If you even look at a woman with lust in your heart, you've committed adultery in your heart. If you're angry with your brother, complaining about your brother, murmuring about your brother, gossiping about your brother, you're murdering your brother in your heart. That's why it's on the same list.

I'm getting so convicted. We're going to bring this in for the last one, verses 9-12.

You okay?

How we talk can reveal who we are.

One cannot help but notice the similarity with what Jesus said concerning how we talk and what we say revealing who we are.

For James to bring up this contradictory duplicity, if I can say it like that, as it relates to our tongue that we use to praise the Lord and curse man is breathtaking.

And it's for this reason that James, like the Savior before him, likens this to the fruit of our lives, springing forth from the root in our lives. What you say and how you talk reveals who you are, and that's what Jesus said in *Matthew 12*, beginning in *verse 33*.

He says, **“Either make the tree good and its fruit good or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; [And here's why] for the tree is known by its fruit.”**

Now He's going to get real here. **“You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.”**

“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh,” as the King James renders it.

We need to talk about this for just a moment before we move on. What I speak, what I say, how I talk reveals what's in here. The fruit of my lips reveals the root in my heart. It's there a root of bitterness?

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Oh, it's going to come out. That's why the writer of Hebrews says, **“Beware, lest there be a root of bitterness.”** It'll eat your lunch. I know that's a very loose paraphrase, but it will defile you and it will destroy you.

You let, at the root, you let that little seed of bitterness and resentment begin to germinate and sprout, the fruit will come out and it ain't going to be good fruit. It's going to be bitter fruit.

Why?

Because of what's at the root in the heart. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

I know I used this illustration not too long ago, pretty recent, but, again, you will forgive me for not having new material. If you've got a better one, you can tell me about it. I'll use it.

So you're carrying around a bucket and whatever is in that bucket, whatever that bucket is full of, that's what's going to come out of it if you're hit.

If you're full of anger, someone cuts you off in traffic - I shouldn't use traffic illustration, but I just did.

What's going to come out?

Anger.

Why?

Because that's what's inside.

When someone knocks you, bumps you, hits you, how about somebody takes your parking spot?

Just saying, hey, we're doing our best out there, by the way. We appreciate your patience. You know some of us are just grrr. It's okay, I get this, you know, I understand.

You know, some people like to sit in a certain place, you know, you come in and somebody - [Chuckling] I'm going to leave it right there. You know exactly – Grrr.

What comes out is whatever's inside of you. Whatever the bucket of your heart is full of, that's what is going to come out. Again, I'm very convicted.

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Verse 35, **“The good man [This is getting better now] brings out of his good treasure what is good.”**

Hey, if my heart is full of love and you bump me, take my parking spot, cut me off in traffic.

What comes out is what's inside; love, I love you in Jesus' name. [with clenched teeth]

See, I did that through my teeth. You noticed that, right?

And then conversely, **“And the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.”**

I mean, it make sense, right? If it's good, it's going to be good. If it's evil, it's going to be evil.

“But I tell you [And listen please very carefully] I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Okay, we started off with teachers being held to a higher, stricter judgment.

You were all looking at me all smug. Yeah, Pastor, verse 1, it's you.

Okay, well, this is you and me too. Every word.

Every word?

Yeah, it says every, that's the word, every. Look it up in the original. It means 'every' careless word that people speak.

And we're told why. We're given the “Why” behind the “What” because our words are going to be that which either justifies us or condemns us.

Is it good or is it evil? Are you going to speak evil because that's what's in your heart is evil?

And you're going to speak evil? Or are you going to speak that which is good?

One last thing and I'll bring it in for close and I very much appreciate your patience with me today, especially on this one. Of course, last week was no better.

Do you realize that sometimes all it takes is just one encouraging word and you can change someone's life? Just one encouraging word.

All it takes is saying something to someone like, Hey, I'm praying for you. I'm praying for you.

You are?

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Yeah.

Oh!

Then they start crying and you start crying and you smudge your mascara.

You've heard that expression, "They don't care about how much you know until they know about how much you care." Man, you can really encourage someone, and it doesn't have to be fancy-Nancy.

If your name is Nancy, we love you. I'm using that as a – it doesn't have to be anything fancy.

It can just be straight talk, man, just from the heart. You know, just hey, man, I know you're struggling. I just want you to know, man, I'm praying for you. And God's got this. And you'll see. You'll see, God's got this.

Oh, they're like yeah, God's got this! I'm good. I can go for a month with one pat on the back. One month, I timed it, actually. Just one encouraging, 'Hey brother, God's got this.' I'm good for a month probably longer.

It depends on who's doing the patting on the back. Because you don't know if there is a knife back there somewhere.

[Laughter]

It's kind of like, why are you being so nice to me? Anyway, that's another sermon for another time.

But man, just one kind word, one encouraging word. I think of the Apostle Paul in the context of the rapture says, **"Therefore encourage one another with these words, as you are even now doing."**

This Thessalonian church, man, that's where I wanted to go to Church, Calvary Chapel Thessalonica. Yeah, they were encouraging one another. They were an encouragement to – I don't want to go to any church in Galatia because they were devouring one another. That's okay; can I get a ticket to Thessalonica? How far is that from the area of Galatia?

Encourage one another, speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Be edifying and encouraging one to another.

James 3:1-12 – May 15, 2022

Straight Talk About Talk

J.D. Farag

Would you agree that if there was ever a time that we as Christians, as brothers and sisters in Christ, could use an encouraging word, it's now, with everything that's happening in the world today?

I mean, there's so much out there. And we're dealing with the world, the flesh, and Devil, and now we got our brothers and sisters in Christ that are piling on? Are you kidding me?

Just a nice, kind word, a gentle word, like the Proverb says. Oh, it could just be such a blessing, such an encouragement at a time when we really need to encourage one another.

Well, that's straight talk about talk.

Kapono, come on up. I will have you stand up and we'll close in prayer and song. Again, I appreciate your patience.

Father in Heaven – Oh, man, I remember when we finished Hebrews and were getting ready to start in James, that there was just a sense that if Hebrews didn't do it, James would finish the job.

And it seems like he is because this is so good. It's so convicting, but it's so good. We need this, not condemnation, but conviction. We need this, this conviction, Lord.

Lord, thank You for Your Word and thank You for this word in Your Word. I pray now that the Holy Spirit, as only You can,

Lord, will take this so that when we leave here, we don't leave here the same way we came here today. So that like James says, that we are numbered among those of whom it can be said, they are doers of the word, not just hearers of the word.

So Lord, thank You. Thank You for Your Word and this word, in Jesus' name, amen.