



STEADFAST 3: STEADFAST IN WORDS

17th March 2013, Hugh Pearce

Small Group Notes

Series: STEADFAST (James)
Title: Steadfast in Words
Theme: The Tongue
Scripture: James 3:1-12; Matthew 12:34; James 1:36; Psalm 141:3; Matthew 16:22-23
Tags: Tongue, Words, James
Outline:

1. POWER of the tongue – v1-5
 - a. Power to condemn
 - b. Power to control
2. POLLUTION of the tongue – v6-12
 - a. Pollution – naturally!
 - b. Pollution – deceived.

Questions/Activities:

Choose some of these questions as you determine appropriate for your group. Try not to simply read the questions but generate helpful discussion AND APPLICATION - get people in smaller groups if it helps (particularly with honesty).

1. **What struck you during the sermon?** Encouraged/Challenged you?
2. **James tells us that left to itself the tongue isn't neutral – but given over to causing harm. In what way do you find that your tongue does this?** Criticism? Sycicism? Complaining? Gossiping?'Joking'? Etc
3. **In Matthew 16:22-23 we saw that Peter's words, used with 'good intention' (although misguided), were used by Satan to potentially cause harm. How can you avoid the same trap? Even when you have good intentions...'**ask for advice before you affront' 'think twice and ask for advice'.
4. **What ways can we 'redeem' the use of our tongue and control it to use it for good?** Encouragement, Prayer – especially for those who we want to 'pull down', Repentance, etc... NB Maybe your Small group could think of a few people they would like to build up and encourage and you could (provide cards) there and then write them an encouragement!