

## “True Religion”- Part 3

James Chapter 3

V. 1-12- **The Tongue:** (Luke 6:43-45)

### **James 3:1-12 (NLT)**

“Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. **For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.** We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. **Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.** And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a

grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring."

### **Luke 6:43-45 (NLT)**

“A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. **A tree is identified by its fruit.** Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. **What you say flows from what is in your heart.**”

### **Words Reveal You**

James discusses our words three different times. The way believers talk about people shows our hearts and core values. Our words reveal the truth about our character.

V. 13-18- **True vs. False Wisdom:** (Matthew 5:3-11)

### **James [3:13-18](#) (NLT)**

“If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It

is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. **And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.**”

## **Matthew 5:3-11 (ESV)**

### The Beatitudes

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are **persecuted for righteousness' sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

-Peacekeeper: one who *maintains* peace

-**Peacemaker**: one who **restores** peace

## **Wisdom from Above**

The Greek word for wisdom, *sophia*, occurs four times in James' letter. The book could be considered a wisdom letter. Throughout, James (Jacob) recognizes wisdom is necessary

for trying circumstances; it involves insight into God's purposes and leads to spiritual maturity; and God is the source of all true wisdom.