

James: Faith at Work

"Tongue Taming & Teaching" (Pt. 1)

James 3:1-12

Sunday, August 16th, 2026

~ Chapter 3 kicks off a rather lengthy section of the letter where James deals with tension and disunity among the group. And one of the main things he addresses is speech...

** *BUT* this isn't the first time he has spoken about this; notice James 1:19-21.

~ James is someone who saturated himself in old wisdom literature; most of chapter 3 and half of chapter four may sound and feel like the books of Psalms & Proverbs.

A Possible Objection to this Sermon ...

"Pastor, isn't this text really just for pastors and preachers??" The answer to that is a hearty _____!

~ This is an important matter for everyone, especially the church! * **It's the job of the church (the whole church) to protect the teaching of God's word.***

I. WARNING

1. Count the _____ Cautiously as You Consider the _____ of Teacher

~ Remember - this is a Jewish church; they were a group of people who were accustomed to the worship traditions of the Jewish synagogue. They regularly referred to their teachers as "*rabbi*" Which does mean teacher. But it sometimes meant "*My great one.*"

> The Root of the Problem: *Observed Behavior*

* Matthew 23:5-7

Pop Quiz: "With great power comes great responsibility."

.... Who said that?

~ The Origin: Luke 12:48 "... *Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required....*"

II. REASON

2. Those Who Teach are Held to a _____ Standard

~ To feel the weight of this "high calling," we need instruction like what Paul gave the church at Ephesus = Eph. 4:11-16

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ..."

3. We all _____ with Different Kinds of Sin

~ James 1:2, the Greek word is in the *present tense* which suggests that this is something that is repeated. Perhaps the better translation is "*we all sin many times and in many ways.*"

> Praise Pride Ambition Godly or Selfish??

Phil 1:15-17 - "***Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.***"

4. The Teacher's Main Tool is One that is Hard to _____

"Spiritual maturity is evidenced by the use of the tongue... Tongue-mastery is the fruit of self-mastery."

- Sinclair Ferguson

> What the Bible Says about the Tongue & Power of Words:

Proverbs 15:4

Proverbs 18:21

Proverbs 12:18