

February 19, 2023
Kryptonite: Week 7

Our series is based around the fictional character of Superman.

There was one thing that could stop him... Kryptonite.

The longer he was exposed to it, the weaker he became, even to the point of death.

The QUESTION we've been answering in this series is: what's your Kryptonite?

We've talked about different forms of Kryptonite such as Shame, Regret, Rejection, and Low Self-Worth.

Those are all powerful Emotional Conflicts that a lot of people struggle with at different points in their lives.

There is a Kryptonite that I believe WE all struggle with, and one that we have with us all the time!

It's our MOUTH!

Question: How many have ever had your MOUTH/TONGUE get you in trouble?

The Book of James has a remedy for this form of Kryptonite!

James 3:14-15 (NIV)

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Our culture thrives on TALK.

I'll be honest with you...I'm not sure if we'll ever get the MOUTH thing PERFECT in this life!

Perfection is the Goal, but today, Management is the GAME!

Verbal ACCOUNTABILITY is Biblical!

Matthew 12:36 (NASV)

But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they will give an account on it on the day of judgment."

We're going to answer for our WORDS on the Day of Judgment!!

Let's discover Three Reasons why we need to Manage our Mouths.

I. My Words Determine Where I GO- James 3:3

They DIRECT my Journey.

James 3:3-4 (NIV)

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.

Words are the steering wheel of your life.

If you need to change Direction – change What & How you Talk.

II. My Words Can Destroy What I VALUE- James 3:5-6

James 3:5-6 (NIV)

Likewise, 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.

A careless camper can destroy a forest overnight, and a careless word can destroy a life overnight!

I wonder how many people have destroyed their marriage, their career, their friendships, or the reputation of others by careless words?

Proverbs 21:23 (MSG)

Watch your WORDS and hold your TONGUE; you'll save yourself a lot of grief.

III. My Words Display Who I really AM- James 3:9-10

Your words reveal your real character. They tell what's really going on inside me.

James 3:9-10 (NIV)

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.

We praise God on Sunday – but we curse each other on Monday-Saturday.

Most of us know John 3:16, but do you know 1 John 3:16?

1 John 3:16 (NIV)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

If we are to love each other that much - shouldn't we at least speak kindly to one another?

But the truth of the matter is... the problem goes much deeper than the Words we say.

Accountability Steps:

1. My HEART needs fixed FIRST!

Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)

... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

2. PRAY! ASK God to help you, then ACT!

The Bible is clear, we need a supernatural power to control our tongues. We can not do it on our own.

Psalms 141:3 (MSG)

Post a guard at my mouth, God, set a watchman at the door of my lips.

Romans 10:10 (NIV)

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your MOUTH that you profess your faith and are saved.

James 3:6, we read it earlier.

You may curse because you heard it in high school, but chances are, you first heard it in your HOME!

My kids can tell you, they've never heard me curse in our home. The truth is, they've never heard me curse! WHY? Because I never heard my Dad curse!

We learn it from HOME!

Mom's and Dads, maybe you need to have a conversation.

Why? Because one day you're going to give an Account!

You'll tell me, but they're just WORDS Pastor... I wonder what you'll tell God on Judgment Day?

Psalms 19:14 (KJV)

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.