



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **The Room Where Words Echo**
Series: **The Rooms We Don't Talk About**
Text: James 3:1-12
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **June 14, 2026**

Big Idea: Our words have the power of life and death — because the tongue is a window into the deepest spiritual realities of the human heart. It is not merely a communication problem; it is a sin problem. And Christ alone can fix it.

*Jesus said, “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. **For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.**” (Luke 6:45)*

James tells us that what comes out of the mouth is a readout of what is happening at the core of our being. **Your speech is a DIAGNOSTIC TOOL!**

1. A WORD FOR THOSE WHO _____ FOR GOD.

*Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because **you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.***

We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, **he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.** (Jas 3:1-2).

- TONGUE CONTROL IS A MEASURE OF SPIRITUAL _____
- THE DEGREE YOU _____ YOUR SPEECH IS THE DEGREE YOU _____ YOURSELF.

2. THE TONGUE IS MORE _____ THAN YOU THINK

*When we put **bits into the mouths of horses** to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. (Jas 3:3).*

*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. (Jas 3:4).*

*Likewise **the tongue is a small part of the body**, but it makes great boasts. (Jas 3:5).*

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

3. THE TONGUE IS MORE _____ THAN YOU THINK

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 person, sets the **whole course of his life on fire**, and **is itself set on fire by hell**. (Jas 3:5–6).

- THE TONGUE IS A _____
- IT _____ THE WHOLE PERSON
- “A WORLD OF EVIL” - IT _____ TO RELATIONSHIPS, COMMUNITIES, ECT.
- “ITSELF SET ON FIRE BY HELL” - TRACES EVIL TO ITS ULTIMATE SOURCE - _____.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but **no man can tame the tongue**. It is a **restless evil**, full of **deadly poison**. (Jas 3:7–8).

James says: no one can tame the tongue. He means that apart from _____, apart from the _____, apart from genuine _____ - the tongue will win!

4. THE PROBLEM OF _____

With the tongue **we praise our Lord and Father**, and **with it we curse men**, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth **come praise and cursing**. **My brothers, this should not be**. (Jas 3:9–10).

Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. (Jas 3:11–12).

James is not condemning us - he is _____! The inconsistency reveals something about the **state of our hearts**.

BEFORE YOU WORK ON YOUR SPEECH, LET GOD WORK ON YOUR _____!

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and **speak truthfully** to his neighbor. (Eph 4:25). **“speaking the truth in love”**. (Eph 4:15).

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**. (Eph 4:29).

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

1. _____ BEFORE YOU SPEAK. “Quick to listen and slow to speak” (1:19)
2. _____: Will this build up or tea down?
3. LET THE GOSPEL _____ YOU!