

James 3:1-12
“Trash Talking”

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 3:1-12)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Trash Talking”**

~ INTRO ~

TODAY WE RETURN TO OUR STUDY OF JAMES ...

- And dive back into practical Christian living...
 - At the crossroads of culture.
- The theme of this epistle is...
 - *Practical Christian Living.*

AND IF THERE'S ONE TOPIC...

- That's difficult to conquer...
 - It's the things that come out of our mouth.

NOW... GOD KNOWS OUR FRAILITY!

- And in the New testament we see Peter...
 - (A regular guy) who boldly proclaimed...
 - *Jesus I will never deny You!*
- And then a few hours later... Peter denies Jesus three times.

SO... PETER (just like you & I)...

- Rushed ahead... when he should have waited;
 - He slept when he should have prayed;
 - AND he talked when he should have listened!

AND IF WE'RE HONEST...

- All of these topics...
 - Are areas... that we struggle in as well!?! (Right?)

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OK... LET ME STIR UP YOUR MIND FOR A MOMENT.

- Back in (James 2) we learned **Four Simple Lessons:**

- 1) FAITH engages needs (2:15-16)
- 2) FAITH is expressed in outward actions (2:17)
- 3) FAITH is NOT invisible, BUT prominent in your life (2:18)
- 4) FAITH flows from the heart (it's NOT religious) (2:19-20)

NOW TODAY...

- We dive into (Chap. 3) & our first idea:

IDEA #1 – THE STRUGGLE IS REAL: (vv.1-2) NLT

JAMES...

- Tackles the next test of faith...
 - Our mouth / the things we say!

BACK IN (James 1:26) NLT

*“If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue,
You’re fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.”*

GANG... PART OF GROWING IN JESUS...

- Is seen in the way we talk.

RIGHT NOW...

- All of our hearts are being stretched & tested beyond normal.
 - Frustration / anger / resentment... it’s all there!
- Some of it is righteous & some of it is corrupt!

BUT WHAT ARE **YOU** KNOWN FOR?

- Two-weeks ago I saw a t-shirt that said, *“I’m Difficult”*
 - I almost bought it for my wife. (hahaha)

DON’T BE KNOWN FOR:

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- 1) Criticizing (Matt 7:1-2) NLT *God called us to *care...*
- 2) Complaining (1 Cor. 10:10) attached to rebellious unbelief of Israel.
- 3) Cussing (Eph. 4:29) NLT

HERE’S THE APPLICATION:

- Develop the habit...
 - Of building up people & NOT tearing them down!

NOW...

- It’s going to take an honest effort!
 - You’re gonna have to think before you speak...
 - But by God’s grace & your willingness...
 - You’ll become a completely different person!

HERE’S THE BENEFIT:

(1 Peter 3:10) NLT

IDEA #2 – SMALL CHANGES HAVE BIG IMPACTS: (vv.3-9) NLT

JESUS SAID...

- (Luke 6:45) NLT
 - There are so many Christians...
 - Who are sarcastic / foul / & verbally unpleasant.

AND IT BEGS THE QUESTION...

- What are we filling our hearts with?

THE SOCIAL MEGAPHONES WE LIVE UNDER...

- Are constantly bombard our lives:
 - a) The Media with propaganda (biased news)
 - b) Hollywood with Movies
 - c) Pop Culture with Music & fashions

AND WHEN WE BUY INTO THESE INFLUENCES...

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- Our *faith* gets diluted...
 - And our lives quickly get riddled with weeds.

JAMES IS ENCOURAGING...

- Us to *Cultivate Character!*
 - But there's work to do.

FLIP TO... (Proverbs 24:30-34) NLT

Lazy Person = Reluctant to make an effort.
(Holman Bible Dictionary says *undisciplined*)

Laziness = Resting when you're not tired

Slumber = Avoidance of activity

Folding the hands to rest = Napping when there's work to do

HERE'S A LESSON FOR LIVING:

- Knowing Biblical truth never replaces the need for applying Biblical truth.
 - And small changes can have a big impact on results!

BUT WHAT MESSAGE ARE YOU FILLING UP ON?

- Is it culture...
- Is it non-believing friends OR family...
- Is it the government...

PART OF TAMING THE TONGUE...

- Is taking out the trash!

Get rid of the things that are dragging you down!!!

IDEA #3 – THIS IS NOT RIGHT: (vv.10-12) NLT

JAMES WANTS US TO KNOW...

- That our mouth reveals our heart.
 - Literally... what we say *reveals where our hearts are sick.*

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I BELIEVE...

- We all have something to acknowledge here...

AND I ALSO BELIEVE...

- That God wants to do something fresh in OUR lives!

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO MAKE SURE...

- You receive the grace of God this morning.

(Titus 3:5) NLT

*“He saved us, not because of the righteous things we have done,
but because of His mercy.
He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and a new life
through the Holy Spirit.”*

SOME OF YOU...

- Need to experience a fresh dose of forgiveness...
 - Because you’ve wandered during COVID-19.

MANY OF US...

- Need a greater hope during this pandemic.

AND OTHERS...

- Need to be released from the shackles of the past...
 - So you can receive fresh life in the moment!

LISTEN...

- If that speaks to you...
 - Would you stand up right where you’re at ...
 - So I could pray over you before we go.

~ LET’S PRAY ~