

JAMES

WEEK 3

Wayne Alguire (November 13-14, 2021)

JAMES 3

Every time we open our mouths Christian truth and community is on the line.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are the most significant words that have been spoken to you by someone?
2. What does it look like for God to influence what we choose to say or not say?
3. How does your ability to speak up or stay silent impact those around you?

LOOK TO THE WORD

Read James 3.

- What stood out? (e.g. themes, verses, recurring thoughts, images)
- What questions stand out?
- What is one key verse?

“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...they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 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.”

James 3:3-5

- Why does James use this type of imagery for his audience?
- What emphasis is James highlighting for his audience?

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"The tongue ... corrupts the whole being, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell...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. James 3:6, 9-10

- Describe what stands out to you as James talks about the tongue and our words.
- What is the significance of contrasting praise and cursing?
- Why does James point to "who have been made in God's likeness"?

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

James 3:17

- In the Bible, what is the source of wisdom?
- What is the role of wisdom in the Bible? Share some examples.
- How is it connected to purity? Peace? Mercy? Good fruit? Sincerity?

LOOK INWARD

Wayne said, "We've all experienced the power of someone's words..."

- Can you recall a time when there were hurtful, diminishing words were used and they still sting?
- Conversely, can you recall a time when you experienced life-giving words of encouragement and comfort that still resonate?

Wayne used the imagery of "mist" rising from us. Dark = negative, Light = positive
Each of us bring our words into this place. What colour is the mist...

- In your home?
- In your car?
- In your workplace?
- With your extended family?
- In your neighbourhood?

Wayne said, "You are responsible for every word that comes out of your mouth."

- How have you experienced others not taking responsibility for their words?

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- How has this impacted you?
- What does it mean for you to be “responsible” for your words?

LOOK OUTWARD

When we are intentional about our language, Wayne said, he sees “our praise and our prayers rising as a pleasing fragrance, a beautiful pure holy haze...”

- What would it look like if every word we spoke to one another was part of our prayers and praise?
- How does that reflect the way of Jesus to others?

“The rotten fruit of an untamed tongue include “gossiping, belittling, cursing, bragging, manipulating, false teaching, exaggerating, flattering, and lying.”

- Barton’s Commentary on James

- How do these ‘rotten fruit’ impact the community around you?
- How does the way of Jesus offer healthy fruit?

SO WHAT?

Every time we open our mouths, whether in conversation with one another or in prayer to our Lord, Christian truth and community are on the line

- Eugene Peterson

BREATH PRAYER

God, let my words be pure, peacemaking, considerate, impartial, and sincere.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Incarnational Listening

See below the full version of Pastor Wayne’s “When to Be Silent / When to Speak Up”.

Read through and highlight your top 3 for each segment

“When To Be Silent”

- In the heat of anger (Prov. 14:17)
- When you don’t have all the facts (Prov 18:13)
- When you haven’t verified the story (Deut 17:6)

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- If your words will offend a weaker Christ-follower (1 Cor 8:11)
- If your words will be a poor reflection of Jesus to others (1 Ptr 2:21-23)
- When you are tempted to joke about sin (Prov 14:9)
- When you would be ashamed of your words later (Prov 8:8)
- When you are tempted to make light of holy things (Eccl 5:2)
- If your words would convey a wrong impression (Prov 17:27)
- If the issue is none of your business (Prov 14:10)
- When you are tempted to tell an outright lie (Prov 4:24)
- If your words will damage someone's reputation (Prov 16:27)
- If your words will destroy a friendship (Prov 25:28)
- When you are feeling critical (James 3:9)
- If you can't speak without yelling (Prov 25:28)
- When it is time to listen (Prov 13:1)
- If you may have to eat your words later (Prov 18:21)
- If you have already said it more than one time (Prov 18:13)
- When you are tempted to flatter a wicked person (Prov 24:24)
- When you are supposed to be working instead (Prov 14:23)

"When To Speak Up"

- To encourage others (Prov 12:25)
- To worship the LORD with gladness (Ps 100:2)
- To sing and shout for joy to the LORD (Ps 98:1)
- To express satisfaction (Prov 18:20)
- To give the reason for the hope within you (1 Ptr 3:15)
- To build others up (Jude 20)
- To comfort others (2 Cor 1:4)
- To preach the Good News (Acts 16:10)
- To proclaim faith (Titus 1:1)
- To stand up for the truth (2 Cor 13:8)
- To speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15)
- To extend or receive healing (Prov 16:24)
- To receive blessing from God (Ps 81:10)
- To taste and see that the LORD is good (Ps 34:8)
- To pray for others (James 5:13)
- To confess sin (Rom 10:9)
- To give thanks (Eph 5:4)
- To pray for yourself and others (Ps 141:1-10)
- To spread the message of Christ (Col 3:16-17)
- To make the most of every opportunity (Col 4:5-6)

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God that He gives wisdom and guides our words
- Pray for the continued efforts to restore and renew our auditorium
- Praise God for the way our Church continues to meet in-person and online
- Pray for our NextGen team as they celebrate a successful retreat and lives changed