

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

April 10, 2022

## James: A Faith That Works The Power of Our Words (3:1-18)

This morning we continue our series from James, called "A Faith That Works," by looking at his warnings regarding the tongue (i.e., words).

### You Don't Know the \_\_\_\_\_ (3:1-12)

James' is arguing that we can't possibly understand the control that the tongue can have over our entire being and the destruction it can cause!

### The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tongue (3:1-2)

James begins explaining the power or importance of the tongue with a warning about the misuse of words by teachers. Most of us want to be heard (1:19). What better way to be heard as a believer than to be a teacher of the gospel? However, James urges his readers to consider the power of the tongue (1Tim 1:3-7). We must not be hasty in putting ourselves into a position where the tongue is constantly used. It is powerful and will incur a "stricter judgment" (Mt 12:36) The more we use our words, the more likely we will be to stumble (and cause others to stumble - Mt 18:5-7).

### The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tongue (3:3-8)

Next, James presents three illustrations of his statement in 3:2 "For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body." These illustrations are:

- (1) Bits controlling horses - 3:3
- (2) Rudders controlling ships - 3:4
- (3) Spark starting a wildfire - 3:5; Proverbs 16:27; 26:18-25

The point James is trying to make is that just like the bit, rudder, and spark, the tongue, though small, can wield incredible power over the body. So much so that James concludes "no human being can tame the tongue" (3:8).

### The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Tongue (3:9-12)

Finally, James shows the dangers of the tongue by explaining how it can be used for both blessing and cursing. In other words, the tongue can easily be used for hypocrisy (Mt 26:33-35, 69-75; Lk 6:46; 1Jn 4:20-21).

*Perhaps  
this is the  
moment  
for which you  
were  
created*

-ESTHER 4:14-

Check us out on  
facebook as  
pleasantviewcoc for  
upcoming sermon and  
bible class topics

Though some may rise against you  
Take courage in your heart  
For He will be your anchor  
And from you will not depart  
He's a shepherd who among His  
sheep  
Was beaten, scourged and tried  
And He suffered in the garden  
Tears of blood His body cried  
So when upon the word's stone  
You may be grinded face and heels  
Again take courage in your heart  
He knows just how it feels..

Overall, James is emphasizing that our words, if misused, can do more damage than we can possibly imagine. In **Philippians 2**, Paul is calling on the believers in Philippi to be unified. He understood that any grumbling or disputing (coming from their mouths) could destroy their unity and prevent them from maturing in Christ.

***Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV)***

*<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish...*

As we look forward to the **meeting on April 24th** for building a plan for the future of our church,, we must remember the damage that our words can do. A trivial complaint, a harsh criticism, an angry attack...any of these things can derail us from fulfilling our mission as a church of Jesus Christ. This is a BIG deal, and one not to be taken lightly.

**Your \_\_\_\_\_ Must Be Changed (3:13-18)**

It may seem as though James is changing topics here to focus on earthly wisdom vs. heavenly wisdom. However, James ties these concepts together in **3:14**. Boasting and being false are two things that we do with our tongue, and James says these things come from a **heart** with “jealousy and selfish ambition,” which are signs of wisdom that is “earthly, unspiritual, demonic.” (**3:15**). So, James is saying that our words are driven by what is written on our hearts. This is consistent with what Jesus said in **Matthew 12:33-35**, “How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

So, how do we tame the power of the tongue? To do this, we must have a change of heart. James said in verse 8 that “no human being can tame the tongue,” and this is from our inability to transform our own heart. To experience this type of change, we must look above (**3:17**). If we allow God to transform our hearts and minds, then we can be one whose tongue is used to sow peace instead of destruction (**3:18**).

**PRAYER LIST**

- Sympathy for the family of **Helen Parrish**, Elizabeth Demonbreun’s grandmother, who passed away.
- David Billingsley’s uncle **Philip Coleman** passed away Monday.
- **Isabel Johnson** was able to go home last week.
- **James Craig**, Faye Head’s brother, is in in-patient rehab
- **Nick Phifer**, a family friend of the Reeds, has had a relapse of leukemia.
- **Ethan Pennington**, Tammy’s cousin, has brain cancer
- Continue to pray for **Rosemary Douglas, Gaynell Walker, Rebecca Brown, Kristine Garrett, John Hayes, Ann Reed, Jim Sims**, and **Faye Waller**

**SERVING TODAY (April 10, 2022)**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Read:** L. Gregory  
**Prayer:** R. Mayo

**WORSHIP**

**Read:** S. Shatto  
**Wait On Table:** J. Walker  
**Serve:** J. Demonbreun, D. Billingsley  
**Prayer:** J. Baker