

PRESSURE POINTS: Your Words are Powerful!

Ron Baum · 9/29/2024 · James 3:1-12

Proverbs 18:21, "The tongue can bring death or life."

James 3:1, "Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly."

James 3:2, "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."

James 3:3, "We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth."

My Tongue Directs Where I Go

James 3:4, "And a tiny rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot wants it to go, even though the winds are strong."

My Tongue can Destroy What I Have

James 3:5, "So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire."

James 3:6, "And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself."

Proverbs 21:23, "Keep your mouth closed and you'll stay out of trouble."

James 3:7-8, "People can tame all kinds of animals and birds and reptiles and fish, **8** but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison."

My Tongue Displays Who I Am

James 3:9-10, "Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against those who have been made in the image of God. **10** And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!"

James 3:11-12, "Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? **12** Can you pick olives from a fig tree or figs from a grapevine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool."

THE PROBLEM: MY HEART

MY TONGUE WILL REVEAL MY HEART

Matthew 12:34, "You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks."

Ephesians 4: 29, "Do not use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

THE SOLUTION:

1. Get a new heart

Ezekiel 18:31, "Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit."

Sometimes we just need a DO-OVER (face-to-face reconciliation)

before God: Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a new heart oh God."

before the person: Matthew 5:23, "So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, **24** leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God."

2. Ask God for help every day

Psalms 141:3, "Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips."

Philippians 4:8, "And now, dear friends, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Psalm 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."

3. Listen, think, then speak

James 1:19, "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

Proverbs 10:18, "Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool."

Proverbs 17:28, "Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues."

Proverbs 15:1, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

What does your tongue reveal about you?