

Managing the Mouth

James 3:1-12

Introduction

James has one ultimate goal in this letter and that is to bring us into maturity in Christ. Many Christians claim faith in Christ but never mature in Christ. These Wednesday night messages are meant to help produce and increase our maturity.

James 1:26-27 are the hinging verses in the letter and in chapter 3 James is elaborating further on verse 26.

“If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain”.

Tonight we are talking about talking (the tongue).

Words

1/5 of an average person’s life is spent talking.

An average person can fill 66 800-page books each year with the words they speak.

Words can change our lives:

I do

You are going to be a father

You have cancer

You are cancer free

I love you

I hate you

Jesus saves

Yes and no in regards to Christ will determine you eternal destiny

Let there be light

In the beginning was the word

For God so loved the world

Hitler’s words led to the extermination of 11 million deaths in concentration camps not to mention the deaths of WW2

Satan's words in Genesis deceived and condemned all humanity

The words of Jesus transformed the world

Many of you still remember pivotal words spoken in your life

Preachers use words

Today words are not only spoken but also typed through twitter, Facebook and all manner of social media

Verses 1-2 He speaks of the moving mouth

1. He begins by addressing the high standard for preachers and teachers that use words.
2. Those that communicate must be careful in how we speak.
3. Many things offend all.
4. People will get offended – it is their nature.
5. Perfection is offending not in word.
6. If people get offended with words let it not be in the flesh but in the Spirit.
7. The mouth must be controlled.
8. The mouth is like a scalpel.

Verses 3-8 He uses metaphors to describe the mouth

He uses six metaphors to make his point

1. A horse and bits (verse 3)
2. A ship and a helm (verse 4)
3. A fire in the woods (verses 5-6)
4. Animals at the zoo (verse 7)
5. Deadly poison (verse 8)
6. James tries to help people get it.
7. It seems insignificant but the mouth can destroy many people.

Verses 9-12 He encourages managing the message

1. Do not curse people that are in the likeness of Christ.
2. We should not curse and bless in the same mouth.
3. Fountains don't send fresh and salt water
4. Trees don't bear berries.
5. Vines do not bear olives.
6. A Christian mouth should not be bi-polar.
7. It is weird to see a Christians destroying people with their words.
8. Christians have to use discretion while communicating with others.
9. We have to manage our mouth when we serve Jesus.
10. What you say matters.
11. Matthew 15:19 Out of the mouth comes what is in the heart.
12. Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

1. Avoid careless words
2. Avoid filthy words
3. Avoid hateful words
4. Avoid deceitful words
5. Avoid lying words
6. Avoid slanderous words

Challenge

1. Use words and speak to God in prayer.
2. Ask God to help you monitor your words.
3. Ask God to make your words encouraging and not destructive.