

Taming the Tongue

Series: Faith That Works

November 1, 2015

INTRODUCTION

We are currently in a sermon series on the book of James called "Faith That Works". In the message for today, we looked at how our words and the things we say can often be an indicator of the quality of our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. List some of the ways we communicate with people today (friends, family, etc.). Do you feel that there are more avenues of communication today in comparison to 15 years ago? How have things changed? In your opinion, what are the effects of these forms of communication?
2. Read James 3:1. Who is James addressing in this verse? Why do you think teachers (preachers) will be judged with greater strictness?
3. Read James 3:2. Who is James addressing in this verse? What is James saying here? What is the significance of our words in relation to our faith? Do you find this verse to be true? Why or why not?
4. Read James 3:3-8. James gives some illustrations to help his readers understand the point that he is trying to get across. What is that point? What impact do our words have, and why do you think he chose to spend so much time on this topic?
5. Read James 3:9-12. In light of the previous verses, what is James saying here in these verses? Have you observed this in the life of the church, or maybe even in your own life?
6. Read James 3:13-18. According to James, what is the solution to help guard and protect us from saying foolish words? From an overall biblical perspective, what is the significance of wisdom as it pertains to our faith?

CONCLUSION

One pastor summarizes the book of James this way: "*James' purpose and thesis in his letter is to show the difference between a mere profession of faith and having a real and genuine possession of Christian faith.*"

Think of 3 people who you can encourage, and more importantly, go and do it this week. Be as specific as possible in what you say with the goal of bolstering their faith. Also, think of some of the people who God has brought into your life to help shape and strengthen your faith. Take some time to get in contact with them to say thanks. Let us practice what God has communicated to us through His Word this week.

"17 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. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." – James 3:17-18