

Sermon Scripture Passage

James 3:1-18

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 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. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Scripture References:

Matthew 5:37 – *Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ Anything more comes from the evil one*

Philippians 2:3 – *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

Colossians 4:6 – *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

Psalms 19:12-14

12 Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

East Glenville Church – Sermon Notes Handout – August 28th 2022
Summer 2022 – James 3:1-18 – Full of Deadly Poison

When Isaiah stepped into the Presence of a Holy God, he felt the weight of his own sinfulness, and called out, “I am a man of unclean _____ and I live among a people of unclean _____.”

3:1 Who will judge teachers/pastors with greater strictness? God, Christians or _____

3:2 James says we all _____ in many ways, why does he focus on speech?

3:3-5 Greek word for tongue = _____. It means both the body part and _____

What three things does he compares our tongue to, and what point does that make?

3:6 The tongue is small but can: One - _____ our whole body

Two – Set the _____ of our life Three – Can be set on fire by _____

3:7-8 The tongue is a _____ evil, and full of deadly poison.

Name the Poisons: *What ways of stumbling/sinning with our speech can you name?*

3:9-10 - *How does James make it clear he is talking about believers not those outside church?*

3:11-12 – *What point is James making about salt and fresh water?*

How does Jesus make the same point in Mark 7:18-23 when talking about eating?

Contrasting the Wisdom from Above with the Ways of this World

3:13 The meekness of [God’s] wisdom is _____, and so may go unnoticed.

3:14 By contrast speech that is driven by jealousy and selfishness is _____

3:15-16 – Such wisdom is not of God but is _____, _____, and _____

3:17-18 – Would you want this to describe you?

What steps can you take that your speech might reflect God’s goodness and honor Christ?

Sermon Handout Answers:

Fill in the Blank Answers:

- *Lips/lips*
- *Society*
- *Stumble*
- *Glossa*
- *Language*

What three things does he compare our tongue to, and what point does that make?

- *The bit of a horse, the rudder of a ship, and a spark that starts a forest fire*
- *That something very small like our tongue can have an effect on something far larger.*

- *Stain*
- *Course*
- *Hell – Gehenna*
- *Restless*

3:9-10 - How does James make it clear he is talking about believers not those outside church?

- *He speaks of those who bless God – but still curse people*

What point is James making about salt and fresh water?

- *Our speech reveals our inner condition*

How does Jesus make the same point in Mark 7:18-23 when talking about eating?

Jesus made the same point in Mark 7:20 – For what comes out of a man is what defiles him,

- *It is not what you eat it is your words that show what kind of person you are...*

- *Subtle*
- *Obvious*
- *earthly, unspiritual, demonic.*