

WE WERE CREATED FOR CONNECTION
What You Say Matters!

Each Sunday in August, the teacher/preacher has presented a relevant message addressing the times we live in right now. Today is no exception.

The Book of James was written for Jewish Christians in a tense world. Persecution, the economy, division, Gentiles and a major revolution instigated by Jewish zealots was about to derail life for the majority of the Jewish people.

It wouldn't take much to light the fuse of violence, strife, and misunderstanding. James was deeply concerned about the integrity and character of his Christian brothers and sisters. One of his main themes is summarized in James 1:26:

"Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless."

We might overlook this challenging verse if it wasn't for James 3:1-12 . . . our Scripture passage for this morning.

Positive

A mature person governs their words well.

"The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction." — Proverbs 16:21

- ◆ The positive potential of the tongue to bless the LORD and others . . .

Negative

- ◆ The negative potential of the tongue to harm oneself and others . . .

This is a restless time (v.8), unpredictable, unstable . . .

"(People) have been made in God's likeness." (v.9)

THREE WISE STEPS

1) Quick to Listen

. . means understand, teachable, humility, discerning
Filling your heart with fresh water (v.11)

- Listen and Learn

2) Slow to Speak

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.” – Proverbs 10:19 (NIV 1984)

- Slow down, speak less

3) Slow to Anger

“Don’t wrestle with the pig. You only end up getting dirty while the pig enjoys it.”

Our God is slow to anger; His Spirit in us will do the same.

- Wisdom manages their own soul

LIFE WORDS; DEATH WORDS

– Praise ➔ “Eulogy” = well-intended word giving life

– Curse ➔ “speak ill” = destroys

“The tongue has the power of life and death.

And those who love it will eat its fruit.—Proverbs 18:21

Reflective Questions:

1. What do you think of this topic? In what ways have your words reflected outwardly what is happening inwardly?
2. What aspect of James 3 stood out to you? Which wise step is most pertinent to you? Why?
3. What positive words to your family, friends, and coworkers need to hear from you?



Welcome
Guests
& Visitors

We are delighted you chose to attend our gathering today. Check out our online Connection Card at <http://newharvestch.org/connect/>, or fill out a Connection Card found in the back of the chair with your prayer requests and to let us know that you joined us today.