

**Series Character Matters**

Passage James 3:1-12

Title Redeeming Our Tongue

Speaker: Jason Vartanian 02/05/2017

Discussion Starter: This Sunday we learned the importance of having a redeemed tongue. Explain in your own words the relationship between godly character and what it means to have a redeemed tongue?

IMMENSE POWER OF OUR WORDS (James 3:1-5a)

- James the brother of Jesus opens this chapter with a stern warning for teachers. In the first part of verse 2 he says that “we all stumble in many ways”. The he continues in the second part of verse 2 and says “If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body”. Do you think the second part of verse 2 is a qualification for being a teacher of God’s word or do you think it refer to something else? Explain your thoughts.
- Why do you think there is a stricter judgement placed upon teachers?
- According to James 3:3-5 ...What do the three illustrations here of the (horse’s bit, ship’s rudder, fire’s spark) each reveal about the tongue’s power?
- According to Proverbs 13:3 what are the two distinct outcomes on how the words we choose to say have power over our lives? Can you describe a time in your life where you really stuck your foot in your mouth or said something you wished you could take back?
- Our words are powered by what we desire-- the problem with destructive words is deeper than the words themselves, it is the heart. How can we guard our heart against pouring forth destructive words? What is it about our desire that compels us to speak destructive words in the first place?

THE FAR REACHING DAMAGE OF OUR WORDS (James 5b-8)

- In verse 6 we see that the tongue is compared to a fire that is set among our members which causes our body to be defiled. Explain in your own words why you think James used this specific illustration? What are the continuing effects of this defiled body according to the rest of verse 6?
- We see the tongue of man can be used for building, or tearing down. What are some of the tactics Satan uses to influence us to use our words for destruction or tearing down?

THE REAL PROBLEM OF OUR WORDS (James 9-12)

- What are some of the ways we have seen our tongue be used for destruction? Some ways it has been used for building? Now as Christians having a redeemed heart how can we be proactive when it comes to redeeming our tongue? Share with each other in detail.