

James 3

v1

“be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation”

- Leaders, teachers, elders, rulers... will be held to a higher/greater standard and the judgement/consequences will reflect that status.
- Acts 20:28 “over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers” This is a fearsome responsibility. One that should keep us in constant dependence upon The Lord.
- If we truly understand the responsibility of such a role then we will be far more careful/fearful to fulfil it. The responsibility is great and grave.

v3-8

“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity” / “But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

- We are so well aware of the hurt, confusion and damage that can be inflicted (upon us) and yet we wag our tongues without a second thought.
- Oh, my we seek The Lord to make us aware of the evil in our tongues/hearts. Oh Lord, make us aware and prayerful about the power in our tongues.
- Lives are changed by mere words spoken, at times, far too easily. They can be uplifted but also destroyed.
- May I live with a consciousness of the destructive potential in my heart/tongue.

v9-12

“Out of the same mouth proceeds blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not so to be.”

- I am Born Again, I'm an heir with Christ, a New Creation in Him, Christ dwells within me... and yet I do not control my tongue.
- May we give much time in prayer, seeking The Lord for His discipline, conviction and carefulness.
- It is so important that we “walk in The Spirit” Galatians 5:16-25 It is imperative!
- It is the fear/reverence of The Lord that will help us keep our tongues in check.
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 “what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness?”
- Matthew 12:36 ... “on the day of judgment men will have to give account for every idle word they speak.” A fearful thought.
- May we pray and ask The Holy Spirit to keep us mindful and considerate of our words. Let us speak to glorify and praise His name!

v13

“let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.”

- In the same way that “faith without works is dead” so wisdom is naturally demonstrated by those who have it.
- This is also an encouragement to these wise men to consciously serve to be an example to the younger men. To lead the way.
- This is not only an example to the young men but it also shows the younger women what a “good man” is. Display the characteristics of a good man for the younger generation to see. The benefits are more than we comprehend.

v14-16

“This wisdom does not descend from above”

- Matthew 7:20 “by their fruits ye shall know them.”
- These verses give us clear markers for Godly vs ungodly wisdom. It is good for checking ourselves first, but also others.
- The flesh cannot produce or impart life. It will only produce death!

v17

“first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

- The first thing is purity. There is a reason it is pure first. This denotes that it is Godly; it is clean/free from selfishness, false intent; it is from a pure heart, a God fearing, God praising testimony; It is biblical, edifying and from a heart after God.
- “easy to be entreated” This is someone who is approachable; someone to be sought out; someone kind, fair, welcoming; Someone you want to go to. Are we that kind of person?