

# 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?