

James: A Letter from Jesus' Brother **Taming the Tongue — James 3:1-12**

Introduction

Even though David Brained had powerfully met God through trusting Jesus, he needed to be careful about his words.

What is James' main point in this passage? (v.1)

He's talking to those who want to be teachers (v.1).

But he ends up talking to everyone (vv.2, 8).

So James' main point is that we all need to be careful about our words.

Why do we need to be careful about our words? (vv.1-12)

Because we will all be judged by our words (v.1).

Because we are, by nature, evil in our words (v.2).

Because our words can bring terrible destruction (vv.3-6).

Because by ourselves we can't tame our tongues (vv.7-8).

Because our words quickly become wicked (vv.9-12).

What can we do about our words? (vv.13-18)

From vv.1-12 we could think that there's nothing we can do.

But in 1:26 James told us that true religion, genuine trust in Christ, will bridle the tongue.

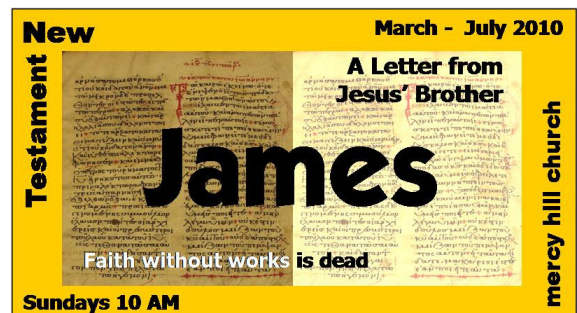
How can we pursue this?

First, look carefully at your words.

Second, confess sinful words to Jesus and receive His forgiveness.

Third, ask Jesus to transform your words (Psalm 19:14).

Fourth, notice when you stumble in your words, and intentionally set your heart upon Jesus during those times.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Does it make sense that in this passage James is calling all of us to be careful about our words? Why or why not?

How careful have you been about your words? Which of James' five reasons is most important to you? Do any of James' reasons puzzle you? Which ones? Why?

Have you ever thought about the fact that God will judge your words? How does this impact you?

At this point in your life, will your words show that you genuinely trusted Jesus? Why or why not?

What are some ways you have seen Jesus change your words? How did he bring about that change? What changes still need to take place?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

New **March - July 2010**

Testament **A Letter from Jesus' Brother James**

Faith without works is dead

Sundays 10 AM **mercy hill church**