

Journey through James Chapter 3

James 3:1-6

Please reread James 1:19-26 to go along with chapter three.

James is addressing mature Christians:

- Chapter 1 – mature believers need to be patient in trouble.
- Chapter 2 – they practice, live out, the truth.

In chapter three he is explaining that a mature believer has power over the tongue.

The people James wrote to in this letter were apparently having serious problems with their tongue. Our words have great power in them we need to be mindful of what we say and rectify things when we slip up.

It is thought that many of the people James was writing to desired to be teachers, that this was a prestigious position to hold.

1. Why do those who teach the Word face stricter judgment?
2. What damage can a teacher do with his words or with his actions?
3. How does 1Cor. 6:19-20 relate to James 3?
4. The rudder struggles with currents & wind, the bit struggles with the wild nature of the horse, the tongue struggles with our old nature. Sin on the inside and pressure on the outside tempt us to say the wrong things. Just as the bit can be controlled by a strong rider, what needs to control our words?
5. In Psalm 141:3-4 David knew that the heart is the key to speaking correctly. Matthew 12:34 “*Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speak.*”
What is the practical answer?

James 3:7-12

1. In verse 7 James writes, “*but no human being can tame the tongue.*” He isn’t stating that it is hopeless, but what point is he making?
2. In the last chapter we read, “*faith without deeds is useless.*” Here James addresses how we honor God and also sin with our words. Do our words reveal anything about the depth of our relationship with God?

3. James is writing to Christians who were causing dissension because of their words, complaining, murmuring, etc. What is the cause behind this sin?
4. We all face differing opinions, concerns and things we outright disagree with. The Bible does not teach to ignore these, but what is the right way to handle these situations?
5. In what way has the Holy Spirit convicted you so far in this chapter?

Wisdom was important to the Jewish people. James is saying that knowledge needs wisdom to know how to correctly use that knowledge. Many of us know intelligent people who cannot function properly in ordinary life. We can know the Word of God yet miss the heart of what God is saying. We need to be able to relate God's word to everyday life. Don't be "so heavenly minded you are no earthly God."

James 3:13-18

1. What two wisdoms does James contrast?
2. Where does earthly wisdom originate & how does it still affect us?
3. How can we prevent the world's viewpoint from creeping in to our lives and impacting our personal beliefs?
4. What is the outcome, the fruit of Godly wisdom?
3. Define selfish ambition.
4. Verse 14 – we all face envy & selfish ambition at times, what is James getting at when he says not to boast about it or deny the truth?
5. How can we move past it and not allow it to affect us negatively?
6. Hebrews 12:14a “*Make every effort to live in peace with all men and be holy.*” God emphasizes for us to live this way, how are we able to nurture this?
7. Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, good fruit, impartial, sincere. These go hand in hand with the beatitudes. Please take time to explain what these words mean to you and how they should be demonstrated in your life.