

Week of November 27 - "Don't Let The Wild Beast Run Loose!" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 9

Connect

If you were hiring someone, which is more important as a qualification: knowledge, experience, or certification? Why?

Verses - James 3:1-12 (CSB)

1 Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body. 3 Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies. 4 And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things. Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest. 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness. 10 Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. 11 Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

Study

1. What is James' warning and who is it directed towards? What reasoning does he give for issuing this warning? Who should teach (v.2)? (James 1:1-2)

2. What does James compare the tongue to? Are they positive or negative comparisons? Why does he use such comparisons?

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** Is the tongue tamable (v.8) and is the tongue just pure evil? How can the impossible be accomplished? (Matthew 19:26; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:27)

🏃 **APPLY 1:** What impact does the gospel have on our speech? What should be part of the speech of a Christ follower? (Psalm 103:1; Proverbs 10:11; James 5:13)

3. What does James want us to understand through his explanation of contrasting *natural* circumstances?(Matthew 7:17-20)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** What potential of the believer is being highlighted, if James is addressing believers who produce such opposites?

🏃 **APPLY 2:** How should we deal with believers who have said harsh things to us and have hurt us? What happens when we do not address such issues?

Share

Complimenting others is generally a good thing. However, when can complimenting others become problematic, even manipulative? What guides our way of speaking to others in a righteous way? What does real sweet speech sound (taste) like?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that we have tongues that have sweet speech.
- Pray for us to mature in Christ.
- Help needed for nursery! Contact - sumiko@tokyobaptist.org