



LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: James 3:1–12

MAIN IDEA: Our words show what is in our heart.

LEADERS:

- We are still in need of ladies who can help a woman in our church who lives in Wayne. Please remember to put this request before your group to see if anyone would like volunteer to help a sister in Christ who can really use it. Please tell anyone who is interested to reach out to Pastor Doug for more details: doug.becker@emergencenj.org.
- SPRING FEST is an outreach event that we are having on April 9, and we are still in need of volunteers. If you'd like to pitch in so that you can make an impact for the gospel on the people living in our community, go to our digital bulletin and sing up!!
- Baptism is available both in-person and online. See the digital bulletin for details.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
 - **Icebreaker:** Share about something cool God is doing in your life to reach those who do not know Christ.
 - **Opener:** What is something that stood out to you from the sermon?
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Introduction

- ♡ Share about a time when you were hurt by something someone else said.
- ♡ Now share about a time when you were built up by something someone else said. Touché!
- ♡  Given the great impact our words can have on people, why is it so easy to be careless with what we say?

The Perils of False Teaching

Read James 3:1–2.

- ♡  Surely there are no (human) teachers who are always correct in what they say. What is the difference between faithful teachers who simply don't have everything figured out and the kind of false teachers Scripture warns us about (e.g., Acts 20:30; 2 Corinthians 11:13; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1)?
- ♡  What are some ways that false teaching threatens the church?



 What are some unique challenges to faithfully teaching the Word of God in our current cultural moment? How should we respond to these particular challenges?

 What can you do to protect yourself and someone you love from false teaching, both hearing it and spreading it?

One Tiny, Itsy Bitsy Little Tongue

Read James 3:3–6

  These verses illustrate the destructive power of the tongue by comparing it with a horse's bridle, a ship's rudder, and a spark that sets an entire forest ablaze. What specific kinds of speech cause this kind destruction?

 Are there any habits of speaking that you have that you think the Lord wants you to change?

 Are there people who have been harmed by your speech whom you need to go to, seeking reconciliation?

  If the consequences of harmful speech are so great, why is it so hard to change the way we speak?

 What do you think James means by saying that “the tongue . . . itself is set on fire by hell”?

Where Your Words Come From

Read James 3:9–12.

 According to this passage, why is it wrong to use our words to harm people? Why is that a really, really good reason not to?

 How can you respond if someone is talking trash about someone else to you?

Read Luke 6:43–45.

 How has Jesus changed your speech since you have come to know him?

  According to Jesus and James, our mouths reveal what is in our hearts, similar to how a tree's fruit reveals what kind of tree it is. How do hearts truly change?

 What practical steps can you take to honor God more with the way you speak?



PRAYER TIME

Pray that God would reveal to you the ways that your speech needs to improve, to reflect more truly his Spirit who dwells within you.

Praise God for the ways your life has been blessed by the words of others.

Pray for the church in Ukraine, that God would raise up his people there to meet the suffering of their people with love and the hope of the gospel.