

Evening Sermon Outline – October 20, 2019

“Speech, Sin, Sickness, Old Age” Psalm 39

I. Watch your mouth, guard your tongue –

I said, “I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.” I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; And my sorrow was stirred up. Psalm 39:1-2

The tongue is a monster! What is it that makes the tongue such a terrible monster?

1. Its destructive power is fearfully underrated – James 3:3-5

Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how reat a forest a little fire kindles! (James 3:3-5 NKJ)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue ... (Proverbs 18:21 NKJ)

2. Its destructive power is extremely combustible and highly irreversible – James 3:5-6

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. (James 3:5-6 NKJ)

“Tongue sins are great sins: like sparks of fire, ill-words spread, and do great damage.” C. H. Spurgeon

3. Its pedigree is from the pit of Hell – James 3:6;

Genesis 3:1-6; John 8:44

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. (James 3:6 NKJ)

Our evil tongue's birth certificate lists the Devil as the father –
"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)

" 13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips"; 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." (Romans 3:13-14 NKJ)

4. It is most untamable – James 3:7-8

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:7-8 NKJ)

The Romans had prided themselves on the fact that they had trained most every kind of animal (Yet No Man Can Tame the Tongue!)

5. It is highly unpredictable – James 3:9-10

With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. (James 3:9-10 NKJ)

The tongue can be a sort of Jeckyl and Hyde, one-minute good the next minute terrible!

6. It is grossly unnatural – James 3:11-12

Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. (James 3:11-12 NKJ)

David was wise to “guard his ways” “Lest I sin with my tongue” ... He was unwise though to keep from speaking good, that was a sin of omission!

II. *When he opens his mouth, it is to pray –*

My heart was hot within me; While I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue: “LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Psalm 39:3-4

1. *Musing, burning inside to SPEAK!*

“Prayer is the child of meditation: meditation leads the van, and prayer brings up the rear.”—*Thomas Watson.*

2. *When he speaks, it is to God! There was more good (grace) in his silence than sin!*

III. *When he prays, it's about his days, his frailty, his sickness and sin; he prays for forgiveness and strength before he dies –*

“LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up riches, And does not know who will gather them. “And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions; Do not make me the reproach of the foolish. I was mute, I did not open my mouth, because it was You who did it. Remove Your plague from me; I am consumed by the blow of Your hand. When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his beauty melt away like a moth; Surely every man is vapor. Selah “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a stranger with You, A sojourner, as all my fathers were. Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, Before I go away and am no more.” Psalm 39:4-13

Let's examine David's prayer(s) piece by piece -

1. “LORD, make me to know my end...”

This is something we all should know, something we probably do know – And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, Hebrews 9:27 We typically know we are going to die, yet we do not typically desire to KNOW THIS! It is something we tend to push from our minds! Judgment, the possibility of Hell's fires, we push even further away, but we should NOT!

2. *Measure of days – Short!*

3. *Frail – this is David in his old age, and he felt it –*

Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. Therefore his servants said to him, “Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm.” So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her. 1 Kings 1:1-4

4. *David's age, nothing – “handbreadths” “vapor” “shadow” –*

A. *Four fingers*

B. *Things that disappear without a trace ...*

C. *Riches gathered but inherited by others*

5. *David's Hope –*

And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You. Deliver me from all my transgressions;

A. *Hope for forgiveness, ultimately Heaven - :7-8*

B. *A desire not to be a reproach, a dirty spot on God's name because of his sin - :8*

C. *Removal of the end of life plague - :10*

D. *He considers such blows from God's hand to be just rebuke for his iniquity - :11*

E. *Why David has this hope, he is a stranger, sojourner –*

For I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were. Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, Before I go away and am no more.” Psalm 39:12-13

For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Hebrews 13:14

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Arnold Brevick