

INTRODUCTION: VERY PRACTICAL! (Jms.3:2; see Rom.3:9f,13,14,19)

I. BIBLE: INSPIRATION (James 3:1-12; see 2Pt.1:21)

- A. TEACHING: SERIOUS BUSINESS** (1,2a; see Prov.10:19; Mt.5:19; Lk.12:48; 1Tm.4:16)
- B. CREATION: POWERFUL EFFECTS** (2b-5a; see Ps.32:9; *Prov.30:19*; Acts 27:40)
- C. FALL: DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS & CAUSE** (5b-8 / (5,6a)Ps120:2-4; (6b)Mt15:11f; (8)Ps140:3&(6c)Gen3:1f)
- D. REDEMPTION: INCOMPLETE RENEWAL** (9-12; Mt7:16; Rom7:22f; /Is1:15; Jms1:26f; 2:14f; Mt22:37f)

II. DOCTRINE: ILLUMINATION (see Ps.119:18; Lk.24:44f)

A. CREATION: THE IMAGE OF GOD IN SPEECH (Jms.3:7,8; Gen.1:26f; 2:16f /Gen1:3f; Jms4:13f; Prv16:9)

B. FALL: THE CORRUPTION OF SPEECH BY SIN

- 1. *corrupted by the father of lies* (Jms.3:6; Jn.8:44; see Gen.3:1f; Ex.20:16; Eph.4:29)
- 2. *pictures: sword, arrow, fire, poison* (death; Jms.3:6,8; Ps.64:3; 120:2-4; 140:3)
- 3. *kinds* (see Ex.20:1f; Mt.22:37f)
 - a. idolatrous: blasphemy (Jms.2:7 *contra* 3:9f; see Ps.10:3&7; 115:3f)
 - b. immoral: murderous, adulterous, fraudulent, slanderous, covetous (Jms.3:9f; see Mt.5:21f; Eph.5:4, etc.; Prov.13:11(Ps.12:2); Ex.20:16; 1Kngs.21:2; see Eph.4:25f,29,31; 5:4,6,19f,22f; Col.3:8f,16f)

C. REDEMPTION I: THE SALVATION OF SPEECH BY GRACE

- 1. *impossible for man, but not for God* (Jms.3:7f; Mt.19:26; Eph.2:3f)
- 2. *accomplished & applied* (1Pt.2:22(Is.53:9); Eph.4:30,26; see (&)Eph.1:3f)
- 3. *pictures: gold, medicine* (life; Prov.25:11; 12:25; 15:23; Is.50:4)
- 4. *kinds* (see Ex.20:1f; Mt.22:37f)
 - a. praise (Jms.3:9; see Ps.35:28; 51:14(etc!); Eph.5:4,18f; Col.3:16)
 - b. edification (Eph.4:15,25,29,32; Col.3:12(/8); 4:6; see Rom.12:14; Eccl.10:12; Prv.10:32; 22:11)

D. REDEMPTION II: THE GLORIFICATION OF SPEECH (Jms.3:9f; Rom7:22-25; 8:18f,30 /Rev4:8f; 5:8f)

III. PRACTICE: EXHORTATION (see Jn.13:17; Ps.19:11)

- A. TEACH IF YOU MUST** (Jm3:1,2; Mt5:19; Lk12:48 /1Cor14:35; Prv1:8; 6:20; Eph6:1f /1Cor9:16; 1Tm2:7; 4:11f; 5:17)
- B. PRAY FOR YOUR TEACHERS!** (1Tm.4:16; Heb.13:17,18; see 1Cor.14:35; Prv.1:8; *in loco parentis*)
- C. WORD DETERMINES WORK: SPEAK CAREFULLY TO ACT DILIGENTLY** (Jms.3:2f; 4:13f)
- D. EXAMINE YOURSELF & CONFESS THE SINS OF YOUR TONGUE** (Eph.4:29; Gal.5:14f; *see II-B, C above*; suggestion: 7-day speech audit)
- E. ASK THE SPIRIT TO PURIFY YOUR HEART AND TAME YOUR TONGUE** (Prv.22:11; Mt.12:34; 15:18; see Eph.4:30,26; 5:4; Lk.11:13; see Acts 2:42; Ps.141:3,4; Prv.17:28)
- F. TAME YOUR TONGUE!** (Eph.4:29; see Ps.34:13,14; 39:1f)
- G. REMEMBER THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE IN YOUR SPEECH!** (Jms.3:8; Mt.5:21f /Eph4:29)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What is the main theme of James 3:1-12? (see 1:26)
4. Why is the public ministry of the word in the church (i.e., teaching and preaching) such serious business?
5. How did God create the world? How is this power reflected in human beings? What does this say about the role and significance of our speech in our actions and habits? How can this be a good thing? How can it be a bad thing?
6. How is the overall outline of the Bible evident in this passage? How is this evident in our speech?
7. What are some pictures of evil speech in the Bible? Give some examples of each.
8. How can each of the ten commandments be violated in our speech? Give examples of each.
9. What can we do about our evil speech on our own? What hope do we have?
10. How has Christ accomplished perfect speech for us? How does the Holy Spirit apply this gift to us?
11. What is godly speech? How can each of the ten commandments be kept in our speech?
12. When will our speech be perfected? What will it sound like?
13. How are you called by God to teach the principles and practices of the Bible? Do you ever teach when or where He has not called you to do so? Do you pray for your teachers and your teaching?
14. Do a seven day speech audit. How do your words determine your actions and habits? For good or ill? What speech patterns do you need to persevere in? What speech patterns do you need to change and why?
15. Memorize and discuss this verse (broken up in lines for easier memorization)
Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth,
but only such *a word* as is good for edification
according to the need *of the moment*,
that it may give grace to those who hear.
- Ephesians 4:29 (NAS)