



## **James:** *Wisdom for the Christian Faith*

James 3:1-12 *Wisdom for Teaching and Talking*

### Introduction

## Not Too Many Teachers!

### ❖ **James 3:1**

- ❖ Deuteronomy 6:6-7—*these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*
- ❖ Ephesians 6:4—*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*
- ❖ Matthew 8:19-20—a scribe came up and said to him, “**Teacher**, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “*Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*”
- ❖ Hebrews 13:17—*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.*

## The Mark of a Mature Believer: A Tamed Tongue

### 1. Christian maturity is marked by one’s ability to tame the tongue

#### ❖ **James 3:2**

- ❖ Ephesians 4:13—*until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to **mature** manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,*

### 2. The Tongue Can Be Used For Great Good

#### ❖ **James 3:3-5a**

(1) He uses the tongue to call sinners to repentance

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:21-24—*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*

(2) He uses the tongue to justify us by faith



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- ❖ Romans 10:9-10—*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

#### (3) He uses the tongue to instruct and correct his people

- ❖ 2 Timothy 3:16-4:2—*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word*

#### (4) He uses the tongue to comfort and encourage his people

- ❖ John 16:33—*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*
- ❖ Acts 14:21-22—*When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*

### 3. The Tongue Can Be Used For Great Evil (5b-8)

#### ❖ **James 3:5b-8**

- (1) The tongue is a wildly destructive beast
- (2) This beast is incredibly difficult to tame

- ❖ Proverbs 18:21—*Death and life are in the power of the tongue,*

### 4. The Hypocritical Way in Which We Use Our Tongues

#### ❖ **James 3:9-12**

## Learning to Speak Like a Mature Believer

### 1. Learn to **NOT** to speak

- ❖ Proverbs 13:3—*Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*
- ❖ Ecclesiastes 3:7—*a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*



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- ❖ Proverbs 17:27-28—Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.
- ❖ Proverbs 10:19—When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.
- ❖ Titus 3:2—speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.
- ❖ Psalms 141:3—Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

### 2. Learn to speak truth rather than lies

- ❖ Psalms 34:13—Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
- ❖ Proverbs 26:28—A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.
- ❖ Proverbs 16:16-19—There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, **a false witness who breathes out lies**, and one who sows discord among brothers.
- ❖ Revelation 21:8—But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, **and all liars**, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
- ❖ 1 Peter 3:10—For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

### 3. Learn to avoid gossip, slander, and all forms of malicious speaking

- ❖ Exodus 23:1—“You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.
- ❖ Leviticus 19:16—You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.
- ❖ Proverbs 16:28—A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.
- ❖ Ephesians 4:31—Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

### 4. Learn to speak loving and grace imparting words



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- ❖ Proverbs 25:11-13—*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprove to a listening ear. Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.*
- ❖ Ephesians 4:15—*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*
- ❖ Ephesians 4:29—*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*
  - *Encouragements*
  - *Exhortations*
  - *Words of thanksgiving*
  - *Words of wise instruction*
  - *Words of loving rebuke and correction*