

**James**

CLA Spring 2014

Jim Hoffman

# James 3: 1-12

- **Sticks, stones, and words all hurt and sometimes the longest lasting hurt and deepest wounds come from the tongue.**
- **What we say matters and people will form opinions of us by what we say.**
- **We get to choose how we will use the tongue we've been given – good or evil, blessing or cursing, and hopefully not both. 😊**

# James 3: 1-12

- **Matthew 12:33** “A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. **34** You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. **35** A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. **36** And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. **37** The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.”

**And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**

- **We gossip when we say something about someone behind their back that we would not say to their face.**
- **We flatter when we say something to someone's face that we would not say behind their back.**

**And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**

- How would I know if I am gossiping or merely relaying valuable information that others need to know?**
- How would I know if I am flattering someone or merely trying to encourage them?**

**Motive**

**And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**

- **A gossip is a person who has privileged information about people and proceeds to reveal that information to those who have no business knowing it.  
(gotquestions.org)**
- **Prove 13:3 Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.**
- **Prov 21:23 Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.**
- **Prov 26:20 Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.**

**And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!**

- **Just like our works reveal what is in our hearts, so do our words.**
- **We will not be perfect with our words, but the real question is “are we making an effort?”.**
- **Do you have one vocabulary for your church friends and another one for your co-workers and neighbors?**

**Hypocrisy**

# James 3:13-18

- **13** If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **15** For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. **16** For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. **17** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. **18** And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

**If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life and doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.**

- How do you measure spirituality?**
- James says that you can prove you know God and His ways by living a life that is honorable with good works.**
- Humility is a prized and laudable New Testament attribute to have – how does it happen?**

**If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life and doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.**

**Math 5:3 "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. 4 God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. 6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. 7 God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. 9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. 10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs".**

# **Note the Progression of the Beatitudes**

- **We see our spiritual bankruptcy.**
- **That causes us to mourn over our sin.**
- **That makes us humble.**
- **Then we become hungry for more of Him.**
- **We want to extend the same mercy we've received.**
- **Then we seek purity.**
- **Then we crave peace.**
- **At this point we are so like Him we are persecuted.**

## **James 3:13-18**

- **So I want to say the path to humility is through seeing our own brokenness and owning it.**
- **When we do that, we are in a place that is painful and good all at the same time.**
- **“The humble, are those who’ve been humiliated.” Joni Erickson**

## **James 3:13-18**

- **In verses 14, 15, and 16 James discusses two negative attributes juxtaposed to honor and humility –**
- **Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition – the modifiers here are important because there is a good kind of jealousy and a good kind of ambition.**
- **Multiple times in the Bible God is described as being a jealous God – so there must be a righteous kind of jealousy.**

## James 3:13-18

- **The healthy kind of jealousy says “I love you so much I won’t help you to do wrong”.**
- **A spouse sees another person getting too close to his/her mate – jealousy says “I will fight to protect the good marriage we have”.**
- **Ambition – without ambition nothing gets done. Healthy ambition is not absorbed in just achieving for oneself and is the opposite of laziness.**

## **James 3:13-18**

- **James 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.
- **Galatians 5:22** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

## **James 3:13-18**

- **James 3:18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. (NLT)**
- **James 3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (NIV)**
- **James 3:18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. (NASB)**

**James 3:18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.**

- **The seed is the gospel and it seems to come with a promise, but I am not confident the ‘fruit’ is converts.**
- **Gal 6:7 Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.**
- **Since many seeds have been sown that yielded no converts, the fruit must be personal righteousness.**

**James 3:18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.**

- Perhaps the idea here is that those who participate in proclaiming the gospel will be rewarded with the peace that comes with obedience.**
- We are required to plant the seeds of the gospel, but we are not responsible for what others do with what we plant.**
- When we realize the results of our work is not in our hands, we can relax a bit and become even more useful because we have peace.**

## **James 3:13-18**

**Work hard for the Lord,  
give it your all,  
then relax and refresh,  
for the next day's work.**

# Questions