

DANGER, WORDS ROBINSON



James 3:1-12, ESV – *Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.*

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of July 21, 2019
James 3:1-12

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that our words have an effect on people, including ourselves. How can our words affect ourselves? How can they affect others?

2 Describe a time when you were affected by someone else using words in a negative fashion? How did you feel? Have you ever done this to someone?

3 How do we avoid danger words? How can we hear the voice of God and follow Him in this area?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Prov 10:11a, ESV** – *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life.*

Prov 16:23-24, ESV – *The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips. ²⁴ Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*

4 When reading passages about our words, we see that our words can have a positive effect. Describe a time when your words have brought life to someone.

5 How is the heart connected with the words we say?

B *Prov 10:11b, ESV – but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*

Prov 10:14b, ESV – but the mouth of a fool brings ruin near.

Prov 15:1b, 2b, ESV – but a harsh word stirs up anger. ² but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

6 In contrast, we see that our words can have a negative effect. Describe a time when your words have caused ruin or folly.

7 What does “conceals” mean in Proverbs 10:11b? Where does a person conceal, or hide, these negative attributes?

C *Ps 62:4b, ESV – They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.*
Selah

Matt 7:15-20, ESV – ¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

8 James is clear that this vacillating allegiance is not acceptable and should not be present in the life of a believer. How can a Christian align themselves rightly and consistently stay in alignment?

9 Jesus tells us we will know where someone stands based on their fruit? What does He mean by “fruit”? Where does all fruit, good or bad, have its root?

10 What are you allowing into the windows of your heart and soul? How do these things affect what comes out of your mouth?

TAKING IT HOME

James exhorts all believers to be careful with their words. What would it look like for you to develop a consistent life style of speaking life and not speaking folly? What steps do you need to take in order to be better at speaking life?

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ps 32:8-9
Matt 12:33-37
James 1:26