

Today ~ We'll Wrap Up ~ Our Review Of James.

James 3:1-12.

The power of the tongue ~ and its control.

Controlled tongue ~ is powerful influence for good, ~ out of proportion to its size.

▶▶ Just as the bit determines ~ the direction of the horse ~ and the rudder the ship, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ so the tongue ~ can determine ~ the destiny ~ of the individual.

▶▶ When the believer exercises careful control of the tongue, ~ it can be presumed ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that they also are able ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to direct ~ their whole life ~ in its proper, ~ divinely charted ~ course.

▶▶ But when that tongue is not restrained, ~ small though it is, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the whole life ~ is likely to be ~ uncontrolled and undisciplined also.

Showed us the destructiveness ~ of an uncontrolled tongue.

▶▶ Used image of a forest fire ~ to show what ~ an uncontrolled tongue can wreak in a believer's life. 1/11

▶▶ What was on James' mind ~ was the ~ spreading of sin ~ from our speech ~ to the rest of our life.

▶▶ If we do not discipline and purify our speech, ~ we will not discipline or purify ~ the rest of our life.

Also showed us ~ the untamable nature ~ of the tongue.

▶▶ Here James was indicating ~ that we need to look ~ outside humanity ~ for help in taming the tongue.

▷▷ While no human being can subdue their speech, ~ God, ~ and only God, ~ can help us control it.

▶▶ And there's excellent news.

▷▷ God will help us subdue our tongues.

And then showed us, ~ the inconsistency ~ of the tongue.

▶▶ From the same mouth ~ come blessing and cursing, ~ James says.

▶▶ This fact, ~ coupled with the fact ~ that we cannot tame our tongues, ~ emphasizes ~ our need for the Lord's help ~ in the matter of our speech habits.

▶▶ We are ~ terribly inconsistent.

▶▶ But the good news is ~ our God, ~ the true and only God, ~ is not inconsistent in any ~ way ~ shape, ~ or form.

▶▶ And we can trust him always ~ to help us speak ~ in a godly manner. 2/11

James 3:13-16.

Godly vs. Worldly wisdom.

▶▶ James began with a question.

▷▷ Who among you ~ claims ~ to possess godly wisdom, ~ which is, ~ by its nature ~ absolutely true ~ and superior to all other wisdoms?

▶▶ A challenge.

▷▷ Those who claim to possess godly wisdom ~ must prove it ~~ by living an honorable life, ~~ which is characterized by ~ doing good works ~ that are coupled with the humility ~ that comes ~ from godly wisdom.

▶▶ Then describes ~~ 2 characteristics, ~~ the source, ~~ the distinctive nature, ~~ and ~~ the fruit ~~ of worldly wisdom.

▷▷ Bitter jealousy and selfish ambition.

▷▷ Earthly realm.

▷▷ Earthly, ~ unspiritual, ~ demonic ~ is its distinctive nature.

▷▷ Disorder and every vile practice ~ is its fruit.

▷▷ And as we summarized, ~ worldly wisdom is a sin-tainted, ~ flawed, ~ and inferior ~ type of wisdom, ~ which is in direct opp. to God.

▶▶ Then follows up w/ description of the attributes & fruit ~ of the believer ~ who possess godly wisdom. 3/11

▷▷ Pure, ~ peace loving, ~ open to reason, ~ impartial, ~ and sincere.

▷▷ An attitude that is ~ reasonable, ~ fair-minded, ~ charitable, ~ non-combative, ~ and ~ that does not seek to retaliate.

▷▷ An attitude of compassion ~ toward those in distress ~ that leads to practical help.

▶▶ James ended this paragraph ~ by stating ~ that the believer operating through godly wisdom ~ is a peacemaker ~ who leaves behind a legacy ~ of righteous behavior and influence.

James 4:1-3.

Conflict in the Congregation.

▶▶ Here James asks, ~ what causes quarrels and what causes fights among believers?

▷▷ Our sinful, self-centered desires ~ which wage war ~ within us.

▶▶ And James showed us that ~ unchecked ~ sinful, self-centered desires at war within ~ cause war without.

▷▷ TPID, ~ the battle within ~ if left to fester, ~ does not stay within.

▷▷ It manifests itself outwardly ~ in ugly ways.

↳↳ Ugly ways ~ that can wreak havoc ~ w/in a church.

James 4:4-6.

Spiritual Adultery. 4/11

▶▶ This is a warning to all believers ~ who seek to embrace ~ both God & the world.

▷▷ By seeking friendship with the world we are, ~ in effect, ~ committing spiritual adultery.

▶▶ Why it's sp. adultery. ⇨⇨ James said ~ being friends with the world ~ is the same ~ as hating God.

▶▶ Follows with a reminder ~ of God's intense desire ~ that his people ~ be wholly and unreservedly ~ his.

▶▶ Ends with ~ an explicit offer of grace ~ to those who ~ reject friendship with the world and humbly submit to God.

▷▷ Sp. ~ enabling grace.

↳↳ I.e., ~ the strength from God ~ to reject friendship with the world ~ and ~ to humbly submit to him.

James 4:7-10.

Submission to God.

▶▶ Exhorts us to submit to God.

▶▶ Then gives series of rapid-fire impvs. ~ that spell out ~ what submission to God entails.

▷▷ These are required ~ as a necessary accompaniment ~ to a claim of submission to him.

↳↳ IOW, ~ this is what submission to God looks like ~ in real life. 5/11

▷▷Resisting the devil ~ is a sign ~ of true submission to God.

▷▷Also, ~ a commitment to ~ habitual, ~ heartfelt, ~ God-honoring prayer.

▷▷Next, ~ getting rid of all sinful habits ~ and living godly lives ~ accompanies true submission to God.

▷▷Additionally, ~ a single-minded commitment to God ~ is a sign ~ of true submission to him.

▷▷And, ~ genuine repentance.

↳↳Basically, ~ genuine repentance is ~ a change of mind ~ leading to a change of action.

↳↳It involves ~ a sincere turning from sin to serve God.

↳↳And it includes ~ sorrow for, and confession of, ~ sin ~ and where possible ~ restitution.

▶▶James' point being here, ~ genuine repentance ~ is an indication ~ that one's claim of being totally submitted to God ~ is valid.

James 4:11-12.

Here James pointed out the seriousness ~ of chronic harsh criticism ~ and also ~ of judgementalism.

▶▶It's not ~ just simply ~ having a chronically negative attitude toward other believers, ~ which stops there. 6/11

▷▷ James clearly showed us that ~ it involves much ~ more serious repercussions.

▶▶ The excuse ~ "As long as it doesn't hurt anybody it's fine," ~ is a denial ~ that there are negative consequences to sin.

▷▷ That excuse ~ is bogus.

▷▷ There are always repercussions to sin.

↪↪ Minor, major.

▶▶ In these 2 vv, ~ James showed us that ~ having a chronically negative attitude toward other believers ~ carries ~ majorly serious repercussions.

James 4:13-17.

Making plans.

▶▶ James used the example ~ of a self-confident declaration by businessmen, ~ who make their plans ~ without consulting God.

▷▷ Recognizably, ~ this applies to all believers ~ who boastfully declare plans of any kind ~ for the future or otherwise, ~ w/out consulting God.

▶▶ Making plans without consulting God ~ is misplaced ~ for 2 reasons.

▷▷ 1st, ~ we don't know ~ what will happen even tomorrow, ~ let alone for a whole year.

▷▷ And 2nd, ~ the uncertainty & brevity of life.

↪↪ What is sure about life, ~ according to James, ~ is its ~ uncertainty. 7/11

▶▶ James then gave us ~ the proper perspective that we are to have.

▷▷ If the Lord wants us to, ~ we will live ~ and do this or that.

▶▶ Go ahead and plan, ~ James says.

▷▷ But leave room for the Master Planner to carry out ~ not our will ~ but his.

James 5:1-6.

Judgment upon wealthy unbelievers.

▶▶ Speaking to people ~ who were not present, ~ for the benefit ~ of those who were.

▶▶ James' primary purpose in this ¶ was ~ to instill correct thinking & right behavior in us ~ regarding wealthy unbelievers.

▶▶ A secondary purpose ~ is to encourage & comfort us.

▷▷ This, ~ of course, ~ lines up with the specific purpose of the OT prophets.

▷▷ In this ¶, ~ James assures us ~ that if they don't repent ~ wealthy unbelievers, ~ as well as all unbelievers, ~ will face God's judgment.

▷▷ They seem to get away with all sorts of bad stuff.

↪↪ But they will be held accountable.

→→ How encouraging and comforting ~ knowing that any wrongs against us will be avenged. **8/11**

▷▷ But we should not gloat.

↳↳ Weep for them.

→→ And pray they turn to Jesus before it's too late.

▶▶ Noted a couple implications from this passage as well.

▷▷ 1st, ~ it could very well be that James is implying that we should not envy the wealthy.

▷▷ And 2nd, implies we're not to avenge ourselves on our enemies.

↳↳ Because James makes it clear that God will judge.

James 5:7-12

James counsels believers, ~ on how we are to behave when undergoing persecution by unbelievers.

▶▶ Advised believers ~ to exercise patience ~ in view of Christ's return.

▶▶ He counseled us ~ to avoid the natural tendency of the afflicted ~ to unjustly blame those around us.

▶▶ James advised us ~ to look at 2 godly examples ~ of suffering and endurance in the past.

▷▷ And i.e., ~ with the purpose ~ of gaining strength in present circumstances.

▶▶ And finally, ~~ he counseled us ~~ to refrain from deceptive oaths ~~ and ~ to maintain integrity in speech ~ while experiencing hostility. 9/11

James 5:13-18.

Instructions on Prayer.

▶▶ James began ~ by commanding prayer ~ for a variety of possible situations.

▷▷ Suffering, ~ rejoicing, ~ & sickness, ~ vv 13-14a.

▷▷ 3 rapid-fire ques. ~ each one followed ~ by a command.

↪↪ Proper course of action.

▶▶ Next, ~ James provided more extended instructions concerning the procedure elders are to follow.

▷▷ Prayer & anointing w/ oil.

▶▶ James encouraged believers to ~ confess their sins to one another and pray for each other.

▷▷ Trusted, ~ spiritually mature ~ believers.

▷▷ Confession then prayer.

▶▶ Then tells us ~ the prayer of a righteous person ~ is very powerful ~ in its effect.

▷▷ Understood here but not stated.

↪↪ Not the prayer ~ but God. ⇔⇔ Powerful in its effect ~ because God is the One who is answering. 10/11

▶▶ And James shows Elijah as illustrative proof ~ that ~ the prayer of a righteous person ~ is very powerful ~ in its effect.

Finally, ~ James 5:19-20.

Restoring a wayward believer.

▶▶ James did not ~ directly exhort us ~~ to seek out and bring back a wayward believer.

▶▶ Rather, ~~ he motivates us by giving us ~~ the incentive ~ for doing so.

▷▷ And i.e., ~ the results ~ of such a mission.

▶▶ Namely, ~ if effective, ~~ it will achieve 2 things.

▷▷ 1st, ~ it will ~ save the erring brother/sister from death.

▷▷ And 2nd, ~ it will bring about ~ the forgiveness ~ of many sins.

▶▶ This ~ is a statement ~ of assurance.

▷▷ That is to say, ~~ we can be sure ~ of these results ~ when a wandering believer ~ turns back to God.

▷▷ This is great encouragement. ~~~ And we need to tell them. ~~~ They can be restored!

▶▶ As noted, ~ not direct exhortation.

▷▷ But James does imply ~ that we have a responsibility ~ to do what we can ~~ to restore ~ an erring believer to fellowship. ⇨⇨ & Not let slip through cracks. 11/11