

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Text: James 3:5b-12

Preacher: Isaiah Mackler

Title: The Peril of the Tongue

Big Idea: The sanctification of your tongue is an evidence of the salvation of your soul.

Proposition: This morning, we'll see three truths regarding the tongue that reveal why sanctification in speech is an evidence of the salvation of your soul.

Outline:

1. The Tongue is perverse (v.6).

(Matthew 15:18-20; John 8:44; 1 Timothy 1:15).

2. The Tongue is uncontrollable (vv.7-8)

(Matthew 12:34; Psalm 57:4; 140:3; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 16:27; Romans 3:13-14; James 4:6-10; Matthew 9:27; Luke 17:12-13; Mark 5:25-34; Matthew 14:14; Romans 8:1-8)

3. The Tongue is destructive (vv.9-12)

(Luke 6:28; Matthew 7:16-20; Exodus 15:23-25; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:8-10; 1 Peter 2:1-3; Psalm 141:1-3)

Study Guide Questions

(There are more questions for personal meditation but probably too many for group discussion. Please pick and choose according to the needs of your group.)

- How have you been applying the truths from last week's text, James 3:1-5a?
 - How have you taught differently knowing we are judged on the basis of what you teach?

- How have you seen the tongue's power to control your life's action?
- What has your tongue revealed about your spiritual health?
- From James 3:5b-8, what stands out to you about the graphic ways in which James describes the tongue? Why does James use such intense language?
- Does James' language in 3:5b-8 reflect what you see in the world today? How so?
- Do you think James wants the Christian to feel hopeless about the tongue after reading vv.5b-8? Why or why not?
- What encouragement does Romans 8:1-8 bring to us as we face the restlessness and poison of our tongue? What practical instruction could we apply from Romans 8:1-8 in our battle to tame the tongue?
- In James 3:9-12, James turns toward a problem he saw among Christians. Do you remember the last time you wanted someone to suffer because of the way they treated you? Why is this sin of cursing others incompatible with praising God?
- Why does James use these pictures from nature in 3:11-12? What does James want his audience to do with the unnaturalness of vindictive speech?
- James has been prepping his audience for his rebuke in James 4:6-11. Does that passage feel like an appropriate response after reading James 3:1-12? Why or why not?
- How has God been sanctifying your speech? Are there areas of your speech where you've been content living with the incongruity and impossibility of a "fig tree producing olives"? How will you repent?