

Let Pure Waters Flow

Text : **James 3: 7-12 ; Luke 18: 9-14**

S#1.

A. From James we've been learning valuable lessons in practical Christian living.

1. We learned to welcome the challenges of life as building blocks for our faith.
2. We were reassured that God sends only that which is good, never temptations.
3. James reminded us that the word of God is only of benefit if received and practiced.
4. He made it clear that true religion is a way of life, not just a system of beliefs.
5. The Christian way of life recognizes the value of all people.
6. Thus, our faith is manifested in the way we live.

S#2.

B. Our last lesson from James began discussing one of the most difficult challenges one faces as he transitions from worldliness to Christianity .. tongue control.

1. Having one's tongue under control is a mark of Christian maturity.
2. Though a small organ, one's tongue has the potential for great good or great evil.
James 3: 5-6 – So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts **S#3.** of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! **6** And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.
3. Taming the tongue is a problem that every person faces.
James 3: 7-8 – For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures **S#4.** of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. **8** But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.
4. Even as one makes progress gaining control he has great difficulty with consistency.
James 3: 9-10 – With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, **S#5.** who have been made in the likeness of God; **10** from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

S#6.

C. With this lesson we want to observe three things about the use of our tongue.

1. God requires that we eliminate some things from our vocabulary.
2. God requires that we add certain things to our conversation.
3. God requires that we consistently use pure speech.

I. God has forbidden certain kinds of speech.**S#7.****A. God forbids speaking evil or slanderously of another person.****S#8.**

1. **Eph. 4: 31** – Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, along with all malice. (NKJV)
2. **I Pet. 2: 1** – Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, like newborn babies long for the ... (NKJV)
3. Thus, a Christian may never speak hurtfully to or about another person.

B. God forbids the use of cursing, cussing, swearing, etc.**S#9.**

1. **Eph. 4: 29** – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth,
2. **Col. 3: 8** – But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. (NKJV)

2. Anger does not excuse the use of bad language.

S#10.

- a. **Luke 6: 28** – bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.
- b. **Eph. 4: 26** – Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- c. Harsh words spoken in anger can destroy relationship and one's influence.
- d. Never have a verbal exchange with one who is angry. (wait)
Prov. 15: 1 – A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

3. One must never take the Lord's name in vain.

S#11.

Exod. 20: 7 – You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain,

C. God forbids dirty or “green” jokes. (*Listening is participating.*)**S#12.**

1. **Eph. 5: 4** – and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

2. **Eph. 4: 29** – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth,

3. Corrupt speech indicates a corrupt heart ... not a follower of God.

- a. **Matt. 12: 34** – You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

S#13.

b. We must keep our minds focused on holy thoughts, not corrupt.

- 1) **Rom. 12: 2** – Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

- 2) **Phil. 4: 8** – whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, ... dwell on these things.

D. God forbids dishonest speech.**S#14.**

Col. 3: 9 – Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, **10** and have put on the new self who is being renewed ...

II. God requires that we add certain things to our conversation.**S#15.****A. Christians are saved to do certain things for God.****S#16.**

1. **Eph. 2: 10** – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
2. One of the things all Christians must do for God is to tell people about Him. **S#17.**
 - a. **I Pet. 2: 9** – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
 - b. We must find a way to bring God into the conversation and extol His virtues.

ILL. – Truck driver had the ability to caver a cute monkey inside a peach pit. He would carve them while standby in his truck. He would then give them to people he met and as he gave them he would say, “*If monkeys come from peach pits and men come from monkeys, we’re all nuts.*” This was often the catalyst to start a conversation about God and gospel.

B. All who follow Christ must tell others the good news of salvation.

1. **Mark 16:15** – And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” **S#18.**
2. But it is embarrassing to tell people the gospel; sometimes they don’t want to hear it.

Luke 9: 26 – For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory,
3. Christians are required to be as persuasive as they can to get people to accept salv.

II Cor. 5: 20 – Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **S#19.**

C. Christians are to view each interaction with outsiders as an opportunity.**S#20.**

1. **Col. 4: 5-6** – Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
 - a. As ambassadors for Christ, Christians are to seek out occasions to share Christ.
 - b. More than a social interaction, we must give thought to what we are going to say.
2. Our approach can never be combative or high pressure. **S#21.**
 - a. **Eph. 4: 29** – Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.
 - b. We can’t beat so far around the bush you don’t know what bush you’re beating.

III. God requires that His followers consistently use pure speech.**S#22.**

A. James 3: 9-12 – With it we ble^ss our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, **S#23.** who have been made in the likeness of God; **10** from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. **11** Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

B. It is common for people to have different vocabularies for different groups.

1. This is not to say that our topic of conversation will not differ with various groups.
 - a. It would not be appropriate to discuss the repair of engines with ladies.
 - b. Likewise, it wouldn't be appropriate to discuss cooking with auto mechanics.
2. The Christian is expected to develop the ability to converse with a variety of people.
 - a. **I Cor. 9: 20-22** – To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; **S#24.** to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; **21** to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. **22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.
 - b. **II Cor. 5: 20** ... We are ambassadors for God so we must function as one.
 - 1) A good ambassador develops the ability to communicate with his host.
 - 2) A good ambassador to identify, to empathize with his host.
3. The Apostle is not telling us to participate in evil, but to identify with them.
 - a. All men are created in God's image so we must love all men. **S#25.**
 - b. **Rom. 12: 16** – Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.
 - c. Thus, it behooves us to develop the ability to talk with a wide range of people.

C. We must never have the attitude of the Pharisee in our text.

1. **Luke 18: 11** – The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: "God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector." **S#26.**
2. There is no basis upon which to feel superior; all are created in the image of God.
 - a. **Rom. 3: 23** – no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - b. Some are forgiven sinners and others are not yet forgiven and need redemption.

S#27.

D. Though the topic of conversations may vary, the standard must remain constant.

1. I've observed that many people have a different vocabulary in front of the preacher.
2. We must never use words in one place that we would not use somewhere else.
 - a. Imagine you are on an open mic.
 - b. ILL- Preacher at a lectureship was caught on an open mic in restroom –embarrassed

E. We must realize that Jesus is a party to every conversation.

S#28.

1. God hears us when we pray, but not JUST when we pray.

Psa. 139: 4 – Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O Lord, You know it all.

2. God remembers every word we have ever or will ever speak.

Matt. 12: 36-37 – But I tell you that every careless word that people speak,
they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.
37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words
you will be condemned."

S#29.

CONCLUSION :**A. Lessons are never aimed at anyone, but are to help us live to please God.** S#30.**B. Our words have much greater significance than we tend to place on them.**

1. All of our words affect God's evaluation of us. (*Even we tend to judge from words.*)
2. Words are significant because they manifest the heart of the speaker.
 - a. Deceptive words reflect a deceptive heart and God sees it.
 - b. Profane words reflect a profane heart and God sees the speaker's heart.

Matt. 12: 34-35 – You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what
is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
35 The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good;
and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

C. Thus, the key to making our speech consistently pure is to make our hearts pure.

James 4: 8 – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your
hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

INVITATION :

S#1. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**James 3: 7-12**

7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. **8** But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; **10** from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. **11** Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

Luke 18: 9-14

9 And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: **10** "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' **13** But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' **14** I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."