

# Take It Home

Applying the Preached Word



## **A Tongue: A World of Un-Righteousness**

### **Text**

James 3:1-12

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February 12, 2012

### **Main Point**

The power of our speech requires the holiness of our speech.

### **Key Ideas**

1. The power of our words (1-5)
  - We will give account for every careless word we speak (Matt 12:46)
  - Nothing plays a greater role in determining the course of our life than our speech
  - We are in a 'battle for vocal holiness' (Sinclair Ferguson)
2. The danger of our words (5-8)
  - The effect of sinful speech can be destructive in ways that can be far more devastating than we can foresee.
  - Note the strong language that James uses to describe sinful speech
  - We can never say that the Holy Spirit leads us to speech that tears others down.
  - Gossip is the report of information or facts about someone who isn't present, usually to the detriment of others' view of that person.
  - Slander is speech against someone that has the effect or intent of tearing another person down.
  - Three questions we should ask about our speech before we talk:
    - Why am I telling this person these things?
    - Would I talk any differently if the person were here?
    - Is my manner and motive for this conversation pleasing to God?
  - The right to free speech doesn't exempt us from the call to godly speech
  - Normal human means apart from the power of God will not tame the tongue for long

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### 3. The transformation of our words (9-12)

- Ultimately our speech is important because it represents God
- The goal of all speech is to bless God and bless others
- An evidence of true relationship with God through Christ will be that over time our speech will more and more reflect his glory.

### **Fellowship Starters**

*Treasure - Application to stir our love for Christ?*

1. Think of someone who you know is careful with their speech. What is the effect of that person on you and others?
2. Where have you seen your speech change in ways that you know it is only Jesus Christ who could have done it?

*Grow - Application to stir our obedience to Christ*

3. Have you ever experienced the bad fruit of gossip or slander – either as a victim of it or as someone who was involved in it? What did you learn from that experience?
4. Where do you believe the battle for vocal holiness is being fought most in your life?
5. What are some ways you as a group can grow together in godly speech or putting off sinful speech?

*Proclaim - Application to stir our witness for Christ*

6. When we are among unbelievers where gossip and slander may be common, how can we guard our own tongues without being self righteous or withdrawing from relationships?