1 Book of James Study

Men of Grace

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2 Quick Facts

Author: James

- -- the (half) brother of Jesus
- -- the lead elder of the Jerusalem church

Recipients: Jewish Christians outside of Israel

- -- Eastern Mediterranean basin
- -- Probably Syria, Phoenecia and Cyprus
- -- Scattered as a result of the "great persecution" after Stephen's stoning (See Acts 8:1-2 and 11:19)

Date:

A.D. 45 - 46

Place of

Writing:

Jerusalem

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4 Style of James' Letter/Sermon

Wisdom Literature

- A collection of wise sayings
- Focuses on practical living
- 5 Major Themes

Three major themes - repeated

- Trials and testing of faith
- Wisdom especially in the areas of speech and obedience
- Riches and Poverty
- 6 Contexts Where We Use Our Tongue
 - · Home: wife and children
 - · Work: boss, co-workers, clients
 - Social events
 - · church
 - · car
 - My own head
- 7 Harmful Uses of the Tongue
 - Coarse joking, vulgarity
 - Swearing
 - · Criticism, tearing people down
 - Lvina
 - Boasting/bragging

Gossip

- 8 Introduction to his topic: teachers

 1Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.
- Thesis: the tongue holds the key to faithful living

 2. We all stumble in many ways.

 If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.
- 1. The tongue controls the rest of your life 3When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.
- 2. The tongue can bring great harm

 5 Consider what a great forest is set on fire
 by a small spark. 6The tongue also is a fire,
 a world of evil among the parts of the body.
 It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole
 course of his life on fire, and is itself set on
 fire by hell.
- 7. The tongue is impossible to control
 7. The tongue and
 7. The tongue is impossible to control
 8. The tongue is impossible to control
- 13 4. The tongue is so inconsistent
 9With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father,
 and with it we curse men, who have been made
 in God's likeness. 10Out of the same mouth
 come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should
 not be. 11Can both fresh water and salt water
 flow from the same spring? 12My brothers, can a

fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

- Thesis: the tongue holds the key to faithful living

 2. We all stumble in many ways.

 If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.
- James vs. Jesus

 Jesus: (Mt 12:33-35): You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.
- 16 Mow Do We Control Our Tongue?

A Good Defense

- Don't talk so much or so quickly
- James 1:19
- Consider more seriously Scripture's warning about our words.
 Eph 5:4-7, Mt 12:36-37
- 17 Mow Do We Control Our Tongue?

Ephesians 5:4-7: Among you there should be no obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. . . Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

18 How Do We Control Our Tongue?

Matthew 12:36-37: But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

19 Mow Do We Control Our Tongue?

A Good Offense

- Using words to praise God and build people up
- · Using words to apologize for using words
- 20 How Do We Control Our Tongue?
 Ephesians 4:29: Do not let any
 unwholesome talk come out of your mouths,

but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

21 Discussion Questions

- 1. Do you agree with James that our words have such a powerful influence over the rest of our lives? If so, why is that? What's the inherent connection between our words and our life?
- 2. What negative use of the tongue are you typically most tempted towards (coarse joking, criticizing, swearing, lying, boasting, gossip, etc)? Are you more of a committer or omitter?
- 3. What helpful strategies have you tried to control your tongue (defensive or offensive)?
- 4. In what context or relationship do you most need prayer this week regarding how you use your tongue (wife, kids, work, car, social, etc)?

22 Thank You

Introduction to his topic

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Thesis:

²We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

Point 1:

³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

Point 2:

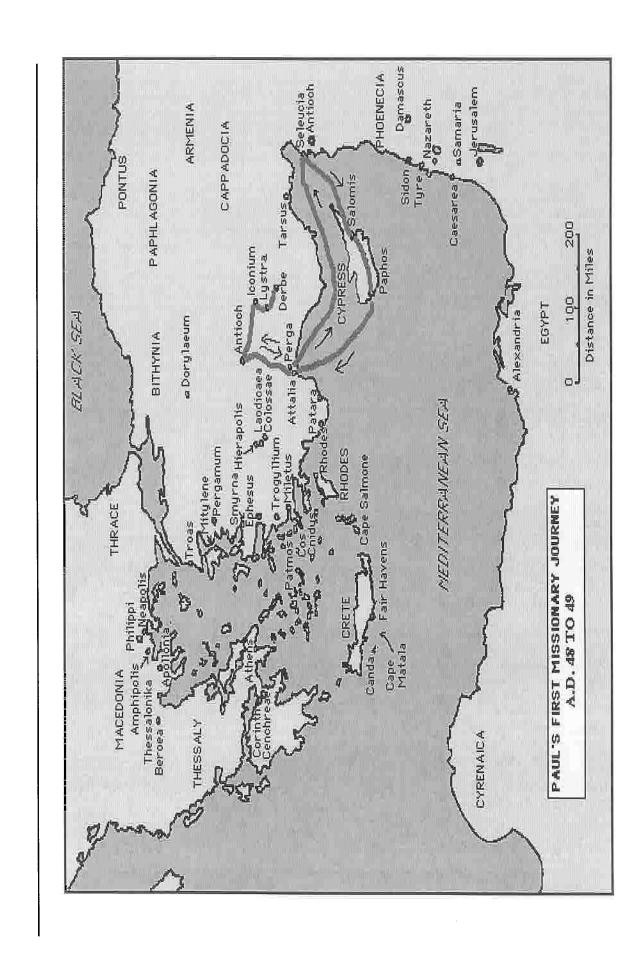
Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Point 3:

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

Point 4:

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.



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