

Home Group study: week beginning 9th May 2021

When the Going Gets Tough:

5. Taming the tongue

In the newssheet Dave said this... As we continue our series in the book of James, it seems clear that James felt that the way we spoke merited some attention. And never one to mince his words, he tackles the subject in robust terms using some very vivid metaphors to describe the dangers of misused words.

Read: James 3: 1-13

From this I put together this summary

1. Teachers or aspiring teachers, be vigilant and aware of our words, those that teach are held to a higher standard of judgment, For when we control our tongues we control our whole body.
2. The tongue carries great power, the most dangerous part of the body
3. The tongue cannot be tamed. It's a fickle, unrestrained evil that spews out words full of toxic poison!
4. We use our tongue to praise God our Father and then turn around and curse a person who was made in his very image!

Discussion starters

1. Is it fair Teachers be held to higher standard of judgement, After all we are all on a journey and we all make mistakes?
2. Do you agree the tongue cannot be tamed, if so what's the point in trying to control our words, is James being melodramatic?
3. James says that the people we curse are made in Gods image, what does he mean? Why does that make a difference?
4. When Jesus said this to the Pharisees in Matthew 12:24
You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Was it in your opinion acceptable for Jesus to scold and call them names, if so why? Does Ephesians 4:29 below contradict Jesus words?
5. In Matthew 15:18 it says *But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.* What does it mean to be defiled by our words?

Application

Read the following scriptures and spend some time discussing them. How we can apply them to our lives.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."

Ephesians 4:29

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters! Let every person be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

James 1 v19

Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

Psalms 141:3

Here is the prayer I read out. You might want to read it and pray it again.

Lord I pray for all those who teach. That they will demonstrate wisdom and control their words and be mindful of the power of the influence they may have over others.

Lord we repent of the harsh words we say to others. Open our eyes so we can see the motives of our words, that we can recognize that words said in jest, or sarcasm or in the name of banter can actually harm another person, so Lord give us wisdom!

*We repent for words said in anger or out of frustration!
we repent for words said to criticize or pull down
we repent for words we say grumbling with a bad attitude*

*Lord we don't want the enemy to get a foot in the door!
Lord teach us to use our words to encourage! Build, Support, Love, be kind words that show patience, words that are gentle and understanding!*

Lord I want to lift up anyone listening who has been hurt by words spoken by teachers, parents, siblings and church family....

Father we recognize that these 'words' can cut deep and can leave painful wounds. In severe cases the deep cuts feel very raw and very real and could have been spoken just yesterday!!

Lord we ask that you heal those damaged by words! Heal their hurting hearts and replace the hurt with your love and peace where folk can testify to your mighty healing power in their life. Where people are no longer burdened by pain from the past.

Lord I pray for those prone to speak negative words over themselves 'I'm not good enough', 'I'm not worthy', 'I can't change', etc. Help those speak truth and light into their lives not negativity.

Lord bring peace and healing where needed.

In Jesus name AMEN