

Week 3 – Speech and wisdom - James 3:1 – 4:12

Read James chapter 3 –chapter 4 verse 12

Is there anything from the reading, or from Sunday's sermon which surprised, challenged, encouraged or confused you?

1. James gives four examples of a small thing controlling or overpowering a large one. What are they?
2. There's an old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." Is it true?
3. How is our speech influenced by others around us? Do you think of yourself as mostly:
A) being influenced by the speech of others or B) influencing how others speak?
4. Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
5. What practical advice would you give someone who wanted to control his tongue better?
6. In verse 14, James warns against the dangers of envy and selfish ambition. What are some of the problems which envy and selfish ambition can cause?
7. Which of the following do you envy most? Somewhat? A little? Not at all?

A) People with more money than me
C) People with a more loving family
E) Good health
G) Good voice, speech
I) Musical talent

B) Smart people with more education
D) People with a nice place to live
F) Strength, athletic skill
H) Rewarding career
J) Something else _____

8. In chapter 3 verse 13, James returns to the subject of wisdom. How has James described wisdom previously? (James 1:5-8) What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?
9. What does James say is the evidence of wisdom in Verse 3:13?
10. How does James characterize 'earthly wisdom?' (Verse 3:14-16) What is the result of 'earthly wisdom?' Where does it lead? (Verse 3:16)
11. In contrast, how does James describe 'heavenly wisdom?' What does heavenly wisdom produce? (Verse 3:18)
12. What advice does James give for wise living in chapter 4 verses 1-12?