A Community Shaped by Wise Words

*Series, Community – A Place to Belong*

James 3:1-18

October 5, 2025

James 3:1-12

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or 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. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

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

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

Theme & Goal:

God **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** your **W\_\_\_\_\_\_** to build community

by **R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** your **H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

1. God **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** your **W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to build community.

* Words are tremendously **P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or 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. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

* Your words can either **B\_\_\_\_\_\_U\_ \_** or **T\_\_\_\_\_** **D\_\_\_\_\_\_** a community.

6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

2. God shapes our words to build community by **R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** our **H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

* You cannot **M\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** your words.

2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

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

* Your words **R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** what is in your heart.

11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Luke 6:45

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Matthew 12:36

I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

* Christ reshapes your heart with **H\_\_\_** **W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Matthew 3:17

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Application:

1. Receive the **G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of Christ and be **T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1. Shape your words to build community by speaking the **T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in **L\_\_\_\_**.

Ephesians 4:15

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Only when your words are both truthful and loving at the same time is your tongue life-giving.