

What If I Spoke Godly Words?

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 20, 2013

James 3:3-12

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 person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man 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 men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

3 WAYS WE TEAR DOWN WITH OUR WORDS:

1. LYING

Deut 5:20 (Made God's Top 10 List)

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

1 Peter 3:10

"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech..."

2. GOSSIP

Prov 16:28 (Gossip destroys relationships)

A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

Prov 18:8 (Gossip corrupts our soul)

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.

Prov 20:19 (Gossip betrays trust)

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

3. CURSING

(v. 10) Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

3 WAYS WE BUILD UP WITH OUR WORDS:

1. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are in fact doing.

Heb 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Eph 4:14-16

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

2 Tim 4:1-2

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, ... I give you this charge: 2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

3. PRAISE GOD

Ps 9:1-2 (WHAT SHOULD WE DO? PRAISE HIM!)

1 I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Ps 30:4 (TO WHO? ALL HIS SAINTS!)

Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name.

Ps 34:1 (HOW OFTEN? AT ALL TIMES!)

I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

Ps 52:9 (HOW LONG? FOREVER!)

I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.

Ps 103:1-2 (WHY? BECAUSE OF ALL HE HAS DONE FOR ME!)

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits —

Heb 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.