

Jesus, Lord of 2017: Lord of my Tongue

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 5, 2017

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.

ATTRIBUTES OF THE SPOKEN WORD:

- **THERE'S POWER IN THE SPOKEN WORD**
- **GOD ALWAYS SPEAKS IN POWER**
- **WE PROFESS OUR SALVATION WITH THE SPOKEN WORD**
- **WORDS REVEAL WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE**

3 WAYS WE TEAR DOWN WITH OUR WORDS:

1. LYING

Deut 5:20

"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 (destroys relationships)

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

Prov 18:8 (corrupts our soul)

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

Prov 20:19 (betrays trust)

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

3. CURSING

James 3:10

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing... this should not be.

3 WAYS WE BUILD UP WITH OUR WORDS:

1. ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

1 Thes 5:11

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

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 ... 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

3. PRAISE GOD

Ps 9:1-2

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 34:1

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

Heb 13:15

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