

# JAMES



A Restless Evil

3:1-12

Where FAITH becomes ACTION

# JAMES 3:1-12

Series on James

Jesus Brother

Witness to Resurrected Jesus

Leader in Early Church

Writing to 12 Tribes Dispersed

Topic today with Great Significance

- cultural realities

- cause of massive problems



# JAMES 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. <sup>3</sup> If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. <sup>4</sup> Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs..



# JAMES 3:1-12

<sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison



# JAMES 3:1-12

<sup>9</sup>With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.”



# JAMES 3:1-12

## 1. Tongue is Powerful

### a) Warnings and Wisdom 1-2

- Those who teach – greater accountability
  - From God Himself
  - From Others
  - From Self
- We all teach someone – pay attention
- All Stumble in Many Ways
  - perfection found in Christ Alone
- Romans 3:23 – all fall short



# JAMES 3:1-12

b) bits and rudders 3-5

- 5lb bit controls a 1200lb animal
- ability to guide and control
- rudder steers where pilot directs
- ability to adjust to forces of nature

\*while small the tongue has a massive resume!



# JAMES 3:1-12

## 2. Tongue is Dangerous 5-8

### a) starting fires

- under control – fire beneficial
- out of control – incredibly destructive
- ability to affect entire course of life
  - cultural conditions
  - conditions in church
- unintended results from careless words





# JAMES 3:1-12

b) untamed by man

- beasts can be controlled
- unable to bring tongue under control
- because what is in our hearts flows out
  - Psalm 52:2-4 "Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.<sup>3</sup>You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right. <sup>4</sup>You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue."
- restless evil, full of deadly poison



# JAMES 3:1-12

## 3. Tongue is Revealing 9-12

### a) Problem

- blessing and cursing with same tongue

- Matthew 12:33-37 <sup>33</sup> "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.



# JAMES 3:1-12

<sup>36</sup> I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, <sup>37</sup> for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

b) two Images

- water from a spring
- fig tree & fruit
- what is in the heart is exposed in the words of the person



# JAMES 3:1-12

## So What

1. We all have something powerful – tongue
2. We all have potential – good or destruction
3. None of us can harness this alone
4. Only through Heart Change – Christ in Me
  - bit – Lordship of Christ
  - accepting and embracing His direction
  - rudder – Scripture, Community of Faith
  - seeing and adjusting – steering

