

Sermon Discussion Questions & Follow-up Notes

July 16, 2024

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Sermon Text: James 3:13-18

Title: "Words of Wisdom"

Series: "Words that Heal"

Core Observations of the Text

TONGUE ASSIGNMENT

Try to keep these "Laws" for one week:

DON'T DO THESE:

1. Don't gossip (confess someone else's sins)
2. Don't complain about anything
3. Don't blameshift or make excuses
4. Don't defend yourself
5. Don't boast about anything...

DO THESE:

1. Speak only good about others
2. Thank God for His plan in your life
3. Admit it when you're wrong or sin
4. Rejoice, you're worse than you think!
5. ...except in your weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:9)

Discussion questions::

1. What did you think about the "Tongue Assignment"? Did you give it a try? How did it go? Our preacher, Justin Schell, emphasized that you can only keep the left column if you remain completely silent! But keeping the right column requires "wisdom".
2. How does this passage describe wisdom? How does it describe foolishness? How are James' descriptions of wisdom and foolishness different from our culture's definitions?
3. Jesus said, "Out of the heart, the mouth speaks." What does the bible mean by the word "heart"? If the tongue is the temperature gauge of the heart, we shouldn't merely try to change the temperature gauge - we should rather realize we need to change the underlying reality: a change of heart. When is a moment in the past that God transformed your "heart"? Is asking God for an ongoing transformation of your heart a priority in your prayers for yourself and others?
4. Ultimately, our tongues reveal our trusting heart in God's fatherly care, or they reveal our accusation and unbelief in God. Our preacher mentioned the concept of "orphan theology". What did you understand by this term. And what is its opposite? What is a bible passage that encourages you to trust in God as your all-caring, all-knowing, all-powerful Father?