

RBC Bible Study 2023

James: Rebuilding our Lives Ethically

4/12/23

Wisdom to Speak (James 3:1-12).

1. Pastors, teachers, those who have speaking roles in the church must be careful. How we speak will bring greater judgment. (3:1-2)
 - a. The Pastor has a greater responsibility because he/she is the leader whom God has set over all of the aspects of the church.
 - b. Since speaking is an essential part of his/her duty, he/she must watch what he/she says or calamity can ensue.
2. Believers have to watch their mouths, otherwise the evil in our tongues can contaminate us. (3:3-8)
 - a. If we do not control our tongues, our tongues will control us. James two analogies to demonstrate this: the horse and its bit, the large boat and its rudder. The horse and the boat are both directed by small objects. So, too, can our tongues direct us if we allow it to get out of control.
 - b. Human beings have been able to tame every creature but the one in their own mouths. The tongue has the ability to damage everything if gone unchecked.
3. The tongue must be used to be a source of blessing never one of cursing. (3:9-12)
 - a. The tongue cannot be used to bless God and curse people, who are made in God's image. If we curse people, then we curse God.
 - b. We have to choose as to whether our tongues will be used to help or hurt, lift up or tear down, build or destroy. They cannot come out of the same source.