

Home Builder's

Making Marriage Work in a Broken World

Lesson 2: Say What?! How to Talk to and About Your Spouse

Text: James 3:1-12 | James 1:26

Introduction:

Little things can have big consequences. The Chicago fire of 1871 was possibly started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern. The fire burnt down 17,000 structures, left 100,000 people homeless, and killed an estimated 300 people. The fire destroyed an area that was 4 miles long and averaged $\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide.

A misplaced hyphen in its computer code veered the mariner 1 rocket off course. To avoid the possibility of it crashing to earth, the rocket was blown up 293 seconds after launch. The rocket cost NASA \$80 million (\$673 million in today's money).

Context:

This section of James immediately follows the exhortation that faith without works is dead. In other words, authentic faith is expressed in our actions. What you really believe shows up in the way that you live.

Outline:

- I. Few should be made teachers because they receive a stricter judgment, and we are prone to cause offense. (1-2)
 - A. We tend to assign greater maturity to ourselves than we merit. (1)
 - B. We all are guilty of offending others. (2)

- II. The tongue is small but has the tendency to cause great destruction. (3-12)
 - A. The tongue is small, but powerful. (3-5)
 1. The tongue has the power to steer the course of your life.
 - B. The tongue has great potential for harm and is hard to tame. (6-8)
 - 1.
 - C. The tongue speaks from the heart. (9-12)
 1. What you say a reflection of your heart.
 - a. Mark 7:21-23—*And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*
 2. The tongue reveals our duplicity.
 - a. Maybe it is more accurate to say that our tongue reveals what we really are.
 3. Only a renewed heart can produce pure speech.
 4. "A fig must have a fig tree as its source, a grape can come only from a vine, an olive from an olive tree; salt water has a salt source; sweet water a sweet source; bitter words a bitter heart; critical words a critical spirit; defamatory, unloving speech issues from a heart where the love of Jesus is a stranger."

Big Idea:

Christians demonstrate spiritual maturity by the wholesome use of their tongue.

Take Home Truth:

You should live as a mature Christian by using your tongue to build up your spouse.

Application:

- Our speech has consequences.
 - Proverbs 18:20-21—*A man's belly shall be satisfied (filled) with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*
- Our speech can be used to build up or tear down our spouse.
 - Ephesians 4:29 *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*

For Next Week:

Lesson Title: Why Are You So Mad? Anger and the Christian Marriage

Text(s): Ephesians 4:26 | James 1:19-20

Next week we are going to discuss the topic of “Anger”. What causes us to struggle with anger so much? How do we manage our anger in a biblical way?

For next week: Think about how anger has affected you and your family. What is the source of your anger?