

Sins of the Tongue

James

Today's lesson is a serious one. Last week we discussed "Counting It All Joy" as we go through trials, temptations and tribulations. I think we all agreed that it is not that easy. In fact, it is almost foreign isn't it? Trials and tribulations are just that. Well, today we are discussing something equally as hard - *taming the tongue*.

Taming the tongue. The biggest problem is our tongue is linked to our heart and our heart can be passionate about how we feel. Our heart can also be injured and/or damaged. So, just as we talked about making real change in how we deal with trials.... let's see what Jesus said.

Matthew 15:1-20

Proverbs 6:16-19

Three of the seven sins God hates are *sins of the tongue*.

1. Why does God hate "*sins of the tongue*"?

Let's see what James says.

James chapter 3

2. What stands out to you in this chapter?

What he is really talking about is so much more than idle words. Words have power and power used incorrectly injures, corrupts and manipulates.

3. If you were to give some examples of *sins of the tongue*, what would they be?

Some of these are back biting, slander, defamation, evil speech, detraction, false witness, lying, perjury, dissimulation, busy body, self-appointed martyr, tale bearing, gossip, boasting, swearing, judging.....

We can focus on any example or we can blanket them all.

We can laugh and say, "Oh yeah, that's me." But we need to soberly and seriously consider ourselves.

Ask the question, where do I fall short?

It's important to me that I do well. I want to use my *tongue* to worship, to encourage and to bless.

The key is

James 1:19-20

From the Grace Notes:

"...sins of the tongue are a sign of the believer reverting to the old way of life --- the condition of a carnal man".

"The believer who indulges in sins of the tongue cannot be distinguished from an unbeliever."

James chapter 4

4. Why is judging condemned as a *sin of the tongue*?

James 1:21-27

I've said that this one scares me the most. I don't want my religion to be useless. Notice, it's religion, not spirituality --- my belief system.

Is your religion useless?

5. Name a specific area where you will make a change.

Psalm 64

David sought God.

James 5:7-20

Here is the key.

Let's pray for one another.....