

The Book of James:
Ancient Wisdom for Modern-Day Times
Week Six: April 14, 2024

Why do we lie, gossip, and bend the truth as followers of Jesus?

1. We lie, gossip, and bend the truth because we are embarrassed of the truth.
2. We lie, gossip, and bend the truth because we embellish the truth.

A lie that is half-truth is the darkest of all lies.

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson
"The Grandmother"*

3. We lie, gossip, and bend the truth because we live in an evil world.

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

(James 3:1-6)

- A. James considers our words are powerful.
- B. James considers our words are important.
- C. James considers our words need to be tamed.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

(James 3:7-8)

How can we tame our tongues as followers of Jesus?

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

*Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.
(James 3:9-12)*

1. We tame our tongues with praise!
2. We tame our tongues by seeing people as Jesus sees people!
3. We tame our tongues with blessings!

Discussion Questions:

1. What words have been shared with you to shape your life positively? Share an example.
2. What has helped you to tame your tongue practically?
3. How can you bless others with your words this week?

News and Notes:

Youth Camp Registration DUE Sunday, April 21st. Sign up at www.vcpc.ca.

75th Anniversary Banquet tickets are available TODAY. Register at back table.

Mentoring Moments with Pastor Andy Tuesdays from 11am-noon. Blue House Basement.

Services, events, programs, and small groups are online at www.vcpc.ca.