

## What's Coming Out of Your Mouth? James 3:13-18

Last week we studied in the first half of [James 3](#) how that **there is a world of evil in our talk**; cf. [James 3:5-6](#). This morning we're asking the question, What's Coming Out of *Your* Mouth? It's incomprehensible **how much hurt and damage** has been done by our talk (marriages, families, churches, etc.), **yet we still minimize our talk** as though there has been no harm done at all. Our talk seems so normal, so ordinary, even unimportant and harmless; contra. [Prov. 26:18-21, 24-25](#); [James 3:8-10](#). Be warned, [Matt. 12:34, 36-37](#).

It's so easy for our mouths to get us into trouble. It can happen so fast, it catches us off guard. E.g. Have you ever truly wanted to show Love and Kindness and Charity to someone (e.g. your family, children, etc.), only to have a bitter, venomous, even hellish person spoil your display of affection and turn it instead into destruction and chaos? Have you yourself ever been that evil person?

Cf. Margaret and I had the privilege to hear Dr. Paul David Tripp give this illustration in his talk, "Speaking for the King" at a NANC conference in Indiana in Feb. 2000; (Cf. 2 minute excerpt of Paul Tripp's illustration is played for the church). Perhaps you can identify with his frustration. We may take a vow of silence, but we are still left with our wicked heart, [Prov. 17:28](#). **HOPE!** Here's where we so need Jesus, [Rom. 7:15, 18-19, 24-25a](#).

[James 3:1](#) admonished us to use restraint before we volunteer to speak, or become a teacher. With this warning then, how can anyone ever presume to speak for God? How can we discern the speakers to whom we should heed and listen?

[3:13](#) (Evaluate, measure) **Who among you is Wise and understanding?** Cf. **Let him SHOW by his good behavior, his deeds in the Gentleness** (humility, meekness) **of Wisdom**.

**Who is Wise among you?** Before you read this passage of Scripture, you may have thought of "Wisdom" in connection with academics; i.e. who's the smartest, most educated among us? But I.Q. and to some degree even formal education doesn't qualify or disqualify us regarding God's Wisdom and Christlikeness, [1:5](#) (It's a GIFT). The Truth is that Wisdom is a Person (D/V), [Prov. 3:13-26; 9:10](#). Simply put, Wisdom is that Jesus is Lord (The Gospel!); contra. fallen angels, unbelieving rebels believing a "lie;" Contra. [Psm. 14:1-4; Heb. 5:11-14](#). **Godly Wisdom is demonstrated by good behavior** (Fruit of Holy Spirit, +R) **and deeds** (+LBP, [I Peter 2:12; 3:1-2, 13-16](#)); Cf. **Gentleness** (humility, meekness) **of Wisdom** (God's Perspective/ Grace GIFT); contra. pride of H/V knowledge; cf. [Matt. 11:28-30; II Cor. 10:1; Phil. 2:5-8; Matt. 5:5](#); contra. [Prov. 14:12](#). Wisdom is practical! [2:14-18](#).

Do you pass James' test for Wisdom? Why or why not? What area(s) don't reflect D/V Wisdom?

**14But if you have** (harbor) **bitter jealousy/ strife and selfish ambition/ self glory/ agenda** (= "ungodly" FRUIT) **IN YOUR HEART, do not be arrogant** (boast) **and so lie against the** (Absolute) **Truth** (= hypocrisy/ self deception); Contra. [vs. 13](#) w/ [vs. 14-16](#) (direction ↔ s/b giving; e.g. "bitter envy" and "selfishness") **Do Receive from God and then Give to others out of the overflow**; contra. human competition for scarce resources; excuse for divorce, "I can't give anymore;" contra. [John 7:37](#).

**15This** (H/V) **"Wisdom" is not that** (D/V) **which comes down from above, but is earthly** (unspiritual), **natural** (limited to sense perception; contra. death; existence; eternal God or eternal matter), **demonic** (anti-Christ/ anti-Grace/ angelic conflict). What is worldly Wisdom's outcome, [vs.16](#)?

**16For where** (harboring bitter) **jealousy and selfish** (self seeking) **ambition exist,** (in that place) **there is disorder** (confusion; cf. “unstable,” [1:8](#); “restless,” [3:8](#); cf. [I Cor. 14:33](#).) **and every evil thing** (ungodly practice). How does this help you better understand the outcome (end = self; contra. [Gal. 5:22-24](#)) of earthly Wisdom? Do you need to confess having earthly Wisdom?

**17But** (in contrast) **the Wisdom from above** (from God’s Perspective) **is first Pure, then Peaceable** (peace loving), **Gentle**, (considerate, other focused, [Phil. 2:3-4](#)), **Reasonable** (gracious, willing to yield, submissive, [Rom. 12:3, 1-2](#)), **full of Mercy and Good Fruits** (+LBP, [Psm. 103:8](#)), **unwavering** (w/o partiality), **without hypocrisy** (not Bunyan’s “Mr. facing both ways,” i.e. two-faced).

**18And the seed whose fruit** (harvest) **is Righteousness is sown in Peace by those who make Peace;** contra. [4:1-4](#). What’s next year’s crop/ harvest going to look like? Do I have a reputation of being Pure, Peaceable, Gentle, etc? [Eph. 4:29-32](#); cf. [Matt. 5:3-12](#). Are you currently seeking guidance about something going on in your life? God will give you His Wisdom if you ask, [James 1:5](#).

**What’s coming out of your mouth?** Seek Christ and His Wisdom. Thank God for the Greatness of His Wisdom (His Son Jesus). Remember that we are to be Speaking for the King as His “ambassador,” [II Cor. 5:17-21](#); [Heb. 13:15](#).

Evaluating the Heart behind WHAT WE SAY we Believe, consider our VISION STATEMENT: “Katy Bible Church is Committed to the Ministry of the Word of God ***THROUGH AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS*** so all would Mature in Jesus Christ for the Glory of God.” [James 3](#) challenges KBC to evaluate our Ministry as to whether WHAT WE SAY we believe *really* produces ***AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS***. Or, is our “Confession” just “Faith without Works” ([2:18](#))? In the light of the use/ misuse of our tongue (e.g. [James 3:9-10; 1:20](#)), what will history/ Bema-Seat accountability SAY has been produced at KBC, in our marriages, our families and by our reputation in our community?

God in His Grace and Mercy continues to call us back to Trust Him, to Love Him and to Seek His Wisdom. But be warned. The sins of the tongue are so serious; remember that even though God totally Forgives us our sins of the tongue, people may not be so Forgiving. We may still have to deal with the consequences of our sin(s) with people. Trust God to Resurrect the dead, even the “dead” prospect of our future; cf. [Rom. 8:28](#).

**What’s coming out of your mouth?** [Rom. 10:9-13](#). Call on Christ today. Jesus Died on the Cross to Pay the Penalty for all your sins, including the sins of the tongue, and He Rose from the grave to Give all who Trust in Him Forgiveness of sins, the Gift of Eternal Life and a Home in Heaven. Don’t delay. Trust Him. You can Trust Him.