James Lesson 5 (2022)

**TAMING THE TONGUE AND GOD’S WISDOM**

James 3:1-17

Key Verse: 3:16-17

**Open it:**

1. What would you want to edit out if you could hear a tape recording of everything you said last week?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 1-2. Why will God judge teachers more strictly than other people? If a person were never at fault for what they said, what would that show about the person? (2) How is a teacher in the church supposed to be different from the average member?
2. Read verses 3-6. What is the purpose of a bit in the horse’s mouth? (3) What is the purpose of the rudder of the ship? (4) What damage can a small spark cause to a great forest? What damage does our tongue do to us? (6)
3. Read verses 7-12. What is so tricky about taming the tongue? (7-8) Of what ways are we inconsistent? (9-10) What can spring or a fruit tree teaches us about speech? (11-12) How can you change your daily speech to reflect its importance in your life?
4. Read verses 13-16. How can a person demonstrate wisdom and understanding? (13) What typical attitude do we need to avoid boasting about? (14) To what do envy and selfish ambition lead? What is wrong with the “wisdom” of a selfish and bitter person?
5. Read verses 17-18. What are the qualities of the wisdom that comes from heaven? (17) How does a wise person act? (18) What happens when people “plant seeds of peace”?

**Apply it:**

1. What positive words do your family, friends, and coworkers need to hear from your mouth this week? What can you do this week to seek God’s wisdom and place peace in a relationship or situation which has been troubling you?