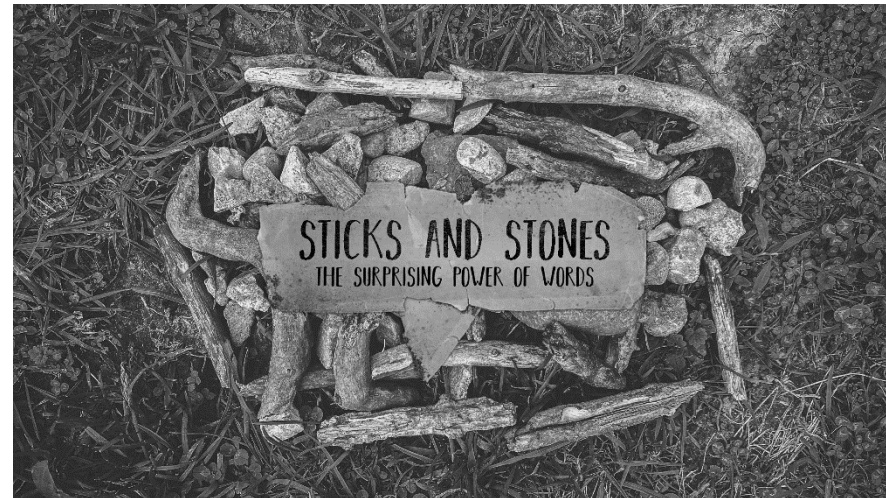


Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. In what ways do you have influence over others?
2. Have you experienced a time when you experienced the power of words to hurt? Inspire? Encourage?
3. Would you say your words are more often “fresh water” (good, encouraging, inspiring) or “salt water” (bitter, cutting, hurtful)? How does this reflect what’s in your heart?
4. James 3:17 says, “¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

What are some steps you can take so that how you use words conforms with James’ description?



Taming the Tongue

“Sticks and stone will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”

Words have the power to:

- _____
- _____ new things
- _____

Scripture: James 3:1-18

_____ will be judged more harshly. (vs 1)

Why? Their _____ lead people toward Christ or away from him

“ _____ ” happens because what’s inside wants to come out.

Three Metaphors:

1. A _____ and a horse

2. A _____ on a ship

- Vs. 5: The “body” = the _____

Your _____ aren’t limited to what you speak with your physical tongue

3. A _____ in a forest

With social media ask:

- “What am I trying to accomplish?”
- “Will my words be effective or only stoke the fire?”

The Dilemma:

“Whosoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.” –Proverbs 21:23

“Whosoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.” –James 1:26

“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

We can’t keep things _____ forever.

The Short-Term Solution is to get better at _____ our _____.

Long-Term Solution is to learn “ _____ from _____ ” so that what does come out is good, encouraging, inspiring and godly.

Two types of Wisdom:

The source:

- *Earthly wisdom:* _____ and _____ ambition. (vs 13)
- *Wisdom from above:* access wisdom through _____. (vs 13, 1 Cor 1:27-29)

The sign:

- Earthly wisdom: Bad _____. (vs 16)
- Wisdom from Above: Good life and _____ done in humility that comes from wisdom. (vs 13, 17)

The results:

- Earthly wisdom: _____ the community. (vs 16, 4:1-2)
- Wisdom from Above: Brings _____. (vs 18)