



Introduction

Title: Blessing and Cursing

Text: James 3:1-12

Theme: Words have a powerful affect on people. They can be both beneficial and destructive. Either way, words are a weapon and we make a daily choice on how to distribute its power.

Intro

Please take some time to watch this Youtube video. (Bridge Church Relocates to Flatbush)

1. How will this group be participating in the mission to see this church have more of a neighborhood impact as they seek to move into Flatbush?

Discussion

Read James 3:1-12

We put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us: A strong horse can be controlled by a small bit in its mouth. A large ship can be turned by a small rudder. Even so, if we have control over our tongue, it is an indication that we have control over our self. Whoever can control the tongue can bridle the whole body (James 3:2).

1. How is your level of control when it comes to your words? Are you known for cutting people down or building people up with what you say?
 - a. What are your current struggles in taming the tongue?

The fire of the tongue has been used to burn many. Children are told sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me. But that child's rhyme isn't really true. The bitter pain of a word spoken against us can hurt us for a lifetime, long after a broken bone has healed.

2. Share about a time when someone's words really hurt you.

James 3:9-12 shows us the contradictory character of the tongue. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse our brothers and sisters. No spring yields both salt water and fresh: James points to the ultimate impossibility of such a contradiction. If bad fruit and bitter water continue to come forth, it means that there is no contradiction. The tree is bad and the spring is bad.

3. Read Matthew 12:34-37. It says that a man's words are a reliable revelation of his inner character. What we say indicates what we are. If this is true, then what does this mean for your character?

Additional Reading

Additional Scriptures on the power of words

Colossians 4:6

Ephesians 4:29

Proverbs 15:4