

Like Apples of Gold in Settings of Silver
James 3:1-12; Prov.25:11-13

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 We possess immense power in our language & speech
 - Proverbs depicts *words* as “fruit of one’s mouth” (Prov.12:14; 13:2; 18:20)
- 0.2 Can you picture it? (Prov.25:11) – like ‘golden apples on silver serving plate’;
words are a powerhouse and force

1.0 The Power of Words

- 1.1 God spoke world into existence and ordained its laws & order (Gen.1)
- 1.2 Father, Son & Spirit introduced in connection to speech (Gen.1; Jn.1:1; 16:13)
- 1.3 Jesus as “the Word of God” (Jn.1:1-3) = speech, thoughts, essence of God
- 1.4 God’s words are so true, they actually sanctify people (Jn.17:17; Ac.26:25)
- 1.5 Jesus spoke from what he had “seen” (Jn.3:11)
- 1.6 Jesus’ words, unlike heaven & earth, never disappear (Matt.24:35)

2.0 The Power of Speech

- 2.1 Speech is primary means of relationships and conveying culture
- 2.2 Our words can run deep & refreshing – or, be deeply hurtful (Prov.18:4,8)
- 2.3 James’ metaphors for speech: horse bit (3:3), ship’s rudder (3:4), spark in forest (3:5-6)
- 2.4 A force desperately needing to be tamed (3:7-8)
- 2.5 Inconsistent potentials (3:9-12) – why so negative about something so good?

3.0 The Power You Posses – *Now*

- 3.1 This congregation is positive, kind & encouraging (not inclined to backbite/gossip)
- 3.2 Keep talking to the youth around you – speak into their lives (don’t wait)
- 3.3 When you see something commendable in someone, please tell them!

Next week (March 14) – That Gentle Wisdom
James 3:13-18

James 3:1-12 (NASB)

The Tongue Is a Fire

³ Do not become teachers in large numbers, my brothers, since you know that we *who are teachers* will incur a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to rein in the whole body as well. ³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their whole body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships too: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are *nevertheless* directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot determines. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part *of the body*, and *yet* it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of unrighteousness; the tongue is set among our body's parts as that which defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one *among* mankind can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brothers *and sisters*, these things should not be this way. ¹¹ Does a spring send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers *and sisters*, bear olives, or a vine *bear* figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

Proverbs 25:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ *Like* apples of gold in settings of silver,
Is a word spoken at the proper time.

¹² *Like* an earring of gold and a jewelry piece of fine gold,
Is a wise person who offers rebukes to a listening ear.

¹³ *Like* the cold of snow in the time of harvest
Is a faithful messenger to those who send him,
For he refreshes the soul of his masters.