

Disciples Speak From the Heart

James 3:1-12

“Sticks & stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me”

- What do you think of this popular saying?
- Can you think of a time where a person’s words to you have been a powerful force for good?
- Can you think of a time where a person’s words to you have been a powerful force for evil?

Read through James 3:1-12 and discuss...

- What stands out to you as you read through this passage?
- What questions do you have of the passage?
- What do you notice that you have never noticed before?

“With great power comes great responsibility” – Uncle Ben, Spiderman.

- Read Matthew 23:6-8 & Luke 12:48. What point do you think Jesus is making regarding those in teaching roles/positions of authority?
- What is similar and/or different regarding how James speaks of teachers?

Read and discuss what both Proverbs and Jesus have to say on the words we speak...

- Proverbs 12:18
- Proverbs 13:3
- Proverbs 18:21
- Mark 7:20
- Matthew 5:21-22

The Power Of The Tongue

- Read James 3:5a, and then discuss it in light of the three analogies used in the following verses.
- Where have you seen evidence of this within the individual?
- Where have you seen evidence of this within the community?

T.H.I.N.K Before You Speak

- **T** – Am I telling the **TRUTH**?
- **H** – Is what I am saying going to be **HELPFUL** to either the person or the situation?
- **I** – Will my words **INSPIRE** others to be who God created them to be?
- **N** – Is it **NECESSARY** that I say what I am thinking?
- **K** – Do my words convey the **KINDNESS** of God’s heart?

Some Final Questions

- Which part of the T.H.I.N.K acronym do you resonate with the most? Why?
- Which part of the T.H.I.N.K acronym do you struggle with the most?
- What might need to happen for you to THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK?
- Is there something from this study that God is prompting you about?
- If so, what are you going to do about it and who might hold you accountable?