

James #5

Read

Jas 1:26-27 (NIV) Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

[27] Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Exegesis

Jas 1:26-27 (NIV) Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

- Religion
 - Used only FOUR times in the new Testament
 - Acts 26:5, Col. 2:18, James 1:26 & 27
 - Religion (meaning)
 - The way that you conduct yourself as a “CHRISTIAN”
 - “What you do that identifies you as a member of your religion”
 - Very similar to what “religion” means today
 - “Activities that set you apart as a Christian (Buddhist, Hindu etc...)”
- The Power of the Tongue
 - Pro 18:21 (NIV) The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
 - Pro 18:21 (AMP) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.
 - **The tongue = The power of words**
 - **THE POWER OF YOUR WORDS – by Robert Morris**
 - **YOUR WORDS....**
 - **“SETS A TRACK FOR YOU (YOUR LIFE) TO RUN ON...”**
 - Every day – what you say **RESETS** your perspective
 - “it’s going to be a bad day” = shooting self in the foot
 - “God will guide me today” = Sets expectations on God
 - “Nothing can hurt me” = makes you fearless
 - **Sets you up for success or failure**
 - People can see what is inside you by your words
 - Interviews = people “just know” who you are
 - **Reveals how you see the world**
 - Provides you with motivation or can be devastating
 - **Spoken words are INCREDIBLY POWERFUL (life-giving)**
 - Your tongue (what you say) can...
 - bring LIFE to yourself or others
 - bring DEATH to yourself or others
 - Examples
 - Encouragement vs. Discouragement (a word spoken in due season)
 - Words of encouragement = can transform others
 - Example: when I was 16 I had a IQ test – “I’m smart”
 - Words of discouragement = Can destroy others
 - Eddie = “Your dumb as a rock...”

- Your words are either “Treason” or “testimony”
 - Can be condemned by (words) treason
 - Can be exonerated by (words) testimony
 - YOUR WORDS ARE A RUDDER FOR YOUR LIFE
- Jas 3:3-8 (NIV) When we put **bits** into the mouths of horses (“reign in”) to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. [4] Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. [5] **Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.** Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. [6] The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. [7] All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, [8] but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
 - THE TONGUE IS
 - DIRECTIONAL – DRIVES US by what we say...
 - DIRECTIVE – GUIDES US by what we say...
 - CATALYTIC – TRANSFORMS US by what we say...
- **Taming of (“Reigning in”) the Tongue (Keeping a “tight reign”)**
 - We must learn to SPEAK aloud what is good and purposeful
 - We must learn to REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING what is evil and destructive
 - “TALKERS” = Value Personal Transparency
 - (YOUR VERSE) Eph 4:29 (NKJV) Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
 - Must learn the POWERFUL and destructive impact of words
 - Only say what is “necessary for edification”
 - Transparency is not always beneficial
 - “I don’t want to conceal my thoughts & feelings”
 - MUST CONCEAL FEELINGS THAT ARE NOT “EDIFYING!”
 - It’s not dishonest, It is wise – AND BIBLICAL
 - “SILENT TYPES” = Value Personal Space
 - (YOUR VERSE) Mat 10:27 (NKJV) "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.
 - Must learn THE POWER of Edification & Testimony
 - Must learn to say what they are SEEING & FEELING in spirit
 - “No news is good news” = Is not true
 - The good news must be spoken or it’s not news
 - Transparency is Good
 - People need to see what is inside you!
 - This is what draws people to Jesus = see what Jesus is doing in you
 - Not just what Jesus has done... they want to see “how Jesus works”
- SELF DECEPTION
 - When we speak we create a “life path” = a path to walk on!
 - **You can deceive yourself by your speech**
 - You must allow God to define you
 - You must not practice self deception
 - “I am fine without help from others”
 - “I can do it on my own”

- You must speak WHAT GOD IS SAYING to you
 - You must speak it to yourself – Self direction
 - You must speak it to others – Ministry
 - SPEAKING WHAT YOU HEAR IS GOD USING YOU TO EDIFY OTHERS
 - God uses us POWERFULLY to encourage and guide others
- Your Tongue & Your Religion
 - Your FAITH and your SPEECH must be congruent
 - Does your speech change character depending on who you are with?
 - Curse and complain with work buddies?
 - Bless and encourage with Church buddies?
 - Does your speech change depending on your mood?
 - Good mood = Full of good news?
 - Bad day = “Everything is terrible”
 - YOU MUST GET A HOLD OF YOUR TONGUE
 - Mat 12:36-37 (NKJV) But I say to you that for **every idle word** men may speak, they **will give account of it** in the day of judgment. [37] For **by your words** you will be **justified**, and by **your words** you will be **condemned.**"
 - **We WILL NOT face judgement based on our INTENTIONS**
 - **We WILL face judgement based on our WORDS and ACTIONS**
 - **American culture = “Words are cheap” = like water**
 - **Biblical understanding = Words are LIFE OR DEATH**
 - If you SPEECH is not congruent with your LIFESTYLE then your religion (the way that you practice your faith) is worthless
 - Your faith must be demonstrated by your words
 - If you say you have faith but vocalize doubt = worthless
 - If you say that you love others but don't speak words of love = worthless
 - If you say that you love God but don't use your mouth to worship = worthless
- FAITH AND WORKS
 - We have been looking at how FAITH and WORKS is related
 - They must be congruent
- FAITH AND WORDS
 - TODAY we are looking at FAITH and WORDS
 - They must be congruent

Response:

- Does what comes out of your mouth produce life?
 - Or do you have poison to share with yourself and others
- Do you have a negative confession that is killing your life
 - Do you set a destructive path for your life by your words?
- Do you have encouragement for others that you are not sharing (to give them life)
- Are you too transparent and self-consumed

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