

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

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We all remember words that were negative ...

Men do this more than women...the worst thing we do is try to cover up words with more words... “That’s not what I meant”... “You took it wrong” ... “get tougher” ... “that’s not really how I feel!”

Just because you say “I’m sorry” doesn’t always fix things!

We underestimate the power of words.

This passage is a warning. YOU carry a loaded weapon. None of this will be new to you. It’s just a reminder that the words we use are very powerful.

James 3:2-12 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. If you keep your mouth in check, you are able to keep the whole body in check. That’s as good as anyone gets in this life – tongue is the last thing to master.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal - Bit – big horses – a 11lb bit controls a 1,000lb horse.

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 The tongue is able to set the course for your whole life ***Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.*** Little spark starts a great fire -

Words are little sparks – don’t be surprised when people around you act like it starts a forest fire when you say some things!

6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. Thing of the potential evil you can start with your words...domestic conflicts, course of kids’ lives, wars... ***It corrupts the whole body, Tongue corrupts the whole person*** – kids who talk back, you put the whole kid in time out not just the mouth; work – you say something and the whole body gets fired not just the mouth; wife – the who body sleeps on the couch, not just the mouth... ***Sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by Hell***

Sets the whole course of your life on fire; Words can burn down your life – Some words can't be taken back or undone.

Set on fire by Hell – we are all born with the pilot light lit on the tongue. You don't have to teach "NO", but you have to teach "Yes"... You don't have to teach disobeying, you have to teach obedience. We are not born neutral, we were born into a sinful world and our mouth has the pilot light from Hell!

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed (or controlled) ***by mankind***, the idea James is giving here is that man does not walk around in fear of animals because if they are dangerous we put them in cages or get rid of them ***8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*** His point is that you will never NOT have to worry about the words that come out of your mouth. It is possible that you can start a fire with your mouth that can't be put out.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. (James is not just saying this is wrong by saying this should not be, he is saying this should not even be possible) ***11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.***

JAMES JUST STOPS. Doesn't tell us what to do. Just that we have a problem.

What do you do with this tongue? Treat it very carefully like something about to blow up. IT would be nice if people had to go to a class and learn how to use their mouth (words) and then go to a range and be shown how you can use it.

Concealed Tongue License – like Concealed Handgun License

You may not put the fires out you started but at least own up to it. Then, STOP talking – don't follow saying I'm sorry for what I said with all the reasons you said it!

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths (or from you – the implication here is that we have a choice of what comes out of our mouth) ***but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Do not let any unwholesome*** (the implication here is that we have a choice of what comes out of our mouth) ***talk come out of your mouths,*** (or from you, in this

day spoken words were all they had, most people could not read or write but for us it could be a text, email, tweet, Instagram, Facebook post - most of the time you hear this verse taught in dealing with cuss words, but maybe in a broader context God knows that our words can do irreparable damage. It may be impossible to think it but you control what comes out of your mouth, or from your phone or computer. DON'T let it come out!

Email and text messages, smart phones have changed the world in good ways and bad, because you can rip someone on a keyboard and say things you would never say to their face...**but only what is helpful for building others up** (the Greek word for building others up, means to expand like if you added a room to your house) **according to their needs** (to build people up according to their needs means we have to know what their needs are, have a level of attention to who they are that you know what they need) **that it may benefit those who listen.** We often say God please bless John, and I think God is thinking I have blessed John and the blessing has a name and the name is you.

NASV says ***“that it may give grace to those who hear it”***

Here is the question: Who has God placed in your life and what is it they need to hear you say, what would build them up and take them to a higher level than they are today.

Surrender your mouth to God daily. Ask God to bless what comes out of your mouth