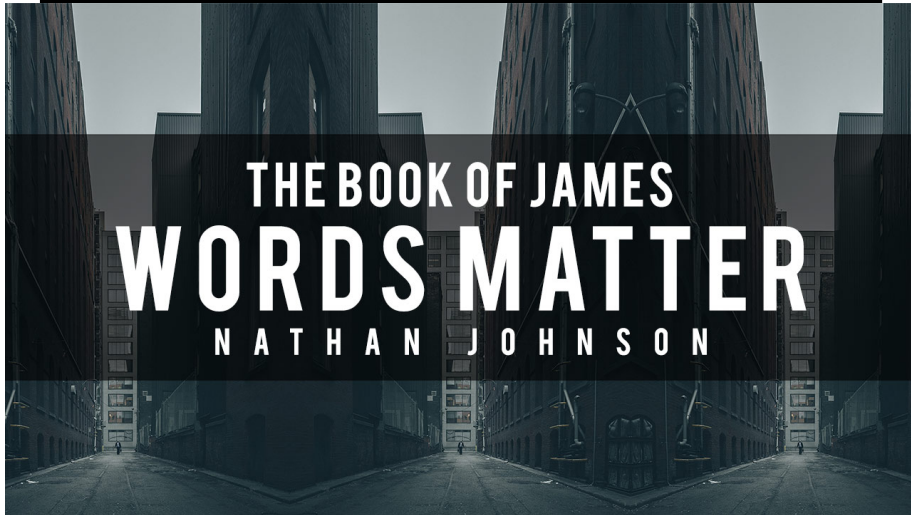


Oceanside Connect Group Outline

Week of May 1st, 2016



Key Scriptures:

James 3:1–12 (ESV)

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

[...] ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being 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 are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? [...]

Discussion questions from this week's sermon

Do you believe we live in a culture that puts a high value on what people say, or is “talk is cheap” the normal perspective?

Why do you think James says in v1 that teachers will be judged with greater strictness?

Knowing that teachers will be judged in this way, **what cautions would you give yourself before teaching something? Must we also have grace for a teacher's imperfections?**

In James 3:2 he says: “...if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man.” **Does this scripture surprise you in any way?**

Being “a perfect man” is a strong statement! **What connection do you see between what we say and a healthy “thought life”? Does our tongue really affect our purity of mind?**

“Surely it's not what we say, but what we do that counts. Isn't that what James meant in Chapter 1 when he said be doers and not just hearers of the word? Talk is cheap!”

- **What do you think James would say to this person?**
- **Can you be a faithful doer of the word with a loose tongue?**
- **Why / Why not?**

Have you noticed through the seasons of your life that the tongue has been the rudder of your actions and thoughts?

Read 3:9-11. **Why should we keep our tongue holy and set apart?**

It seems from this passage that our words have a direct affect on our own relationship with Christ, our internal thought life, and our interactions with those around us. **Do you feel that God is challenging you in this area? In what ways do you see yourself responding?**