

THIS IS US

PART 1: THE POWER OF WORDS

Sermon Notes

Text: James 3:3-12

Intro:

The “Us” in “This is Us” needs to include Jesus.

When Jesus is the center of your relationships, you will have healthy relationships.

Words are powerful - Proverbs 18:21

James 3:3-12 - **Wisdom about how to use words in our relationships**

1. Words have disproportionate power

3 illustrations of small things with disproportionate power (bit in the mouth of a horse, rudder on a ship, a small spark). This is the power of words!

God *speaks* creation into existence

Humans are made in God’s image (Gen 1:27), which means our words have power too!

Our words have the power to bring order out of chaos

Words build worlds

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Proverbs 12:18

Working on the way you speak to people has the power to change the whole relationship

2. Our words reveal our heart (v. 11)

The human heart is inconsistent - we worship God and curse his image with the same mouth!

Luke 6:45

“How we use our tongues provides clear evidence of where we are spiritually.” ~Sinclair Ferguson

The key to speaking words that bring life is to fill your heart with the word of God.

Making it practical:

a) Start with listening

James 1:19

b) Speak life

Quit the negative self talk, and begin to speak the identity of Christ in your life

c) Guard your own heart

If you live by the opinions of others, their praises will go to your head, and their criticism will go to your heart.

Conclusion

Bethel Church Penticton - Sunday January 6, 2019 - Pastor Dave Funk

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What is your favourite TV show, and why?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read and discuss the following proverbs: Proverbs 10:19, 12:18, 15:4, 17:28, 18:21, 21:23, 26:20. What stands out to you in these proverbs? Have you seen these statements play out in any real life situations?
2. Read James 3:3-12. What stands out to you? What makes the tongue so powerful? Are you generally a talker/verbal processor? Or are you the strong silent type? What are the strengths and weaknesses of those two types of communicators?
 - How important is good communication in a relationship? What happens when communication breaks down? What are some of your *good* communication habits? What are some of your communication struggles?
 - What does it mean to "speak life"? How can you be better at that?
3. Do you tend to care too much about what other people say/think about you? Or do you tend to be too quick to ignore other peoples' opinions about you?
 - Can you think of some Bible passages that talk about what God says about you?

- Follow this web link for a huge list of New Testament identity passages: <https://bible.org/article/who-does-god-say-i-am>

Application:

1. This week, begin to speak your identity in Christ over yourself every day.

Prayer:

- Pray for self control and wisdom in your speech.

Other Requests

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