

The Book of James: Ancient Wisdom For Right now

James 3.1-12 | *Horses, Ships, Sparks, Springs* | May 31, 2020

Question: *Share a time when someone said a timely word that encouraged you?*

Question: *What do you typically do when some speaks inappropriately?*

Scripture teaches that: *spiritual maturity / spiritual formation in any area of our lives will involve a double dimension.*

- *A putting off and a putting on*
- *Putting down and picking up*
- *A Letting go and taking hold ...*

Ephesians 4 & 5 tells us to put down certain conversations.

- *Gossip - someone talks unnecessarily about someone's personal or private affairs*
- *Slander - someone who makes false and damaging statements about someone*
- *Lying - someone who doesn't tell the truth - or misrepresents the truth*
- *Unwholesome talk - conversation when heard is detrimental to another*
- *Obscenity - dirty jokes: sexual, racist, arrogant in nature*
- *Foolish talk - inappropriate conversation leaving hearer discouraged & frustrated*

Question: *What are the opposite words that counter this negative list?*

Question: *What are practical things we can do to determine in advance not to engage this kind of talk?*

Read: Isaiah 53:7

- *Why would that be? Jesus had so much to say? So much to correct.*
- *In what way was Jesus silence an act of covering the sin of many?*

Read Colossians 3:16

- *In what ways does God provoke our silence?*
- *What are your common practices of prayer and worship?*
- *Describe a time when you told some about God?*
- *What holds so many back from not talking to others about God?*

Read Acts 2:1-4

- *In what ways does the Holy Spirit equip and enable us to speak?*
- *Why is what we say such a matter of the heart first and foremost?*

Closing Question: *What are some things you can do this week to make more room for God? More room for you to say things to God and more room for you to say things about God to others.*