

Sunday AM - Session 1 - 6/10/2012
"An Extension of the Heart" – James 4:11a

Reading:

Read James 4:7-11

In James 4:7-10 there are 10 aorist imperative verbs:

verse 7: SUBMIT, RESIST

verse 8: DRAW NEAR, CLEANSE, PURIFY

verse 9: LAMENT, MOURN, WEEP, LET your laughter BE TURNED to mourning... joy to dejection

verse 10: BE HUMBLLED

We will study verse 11 in three parts:

- a) *Speak not evil, one of another brothers*
- b) *The one speaking against a brother or judging his brother speaks against the law and judges the law.*
- c) *If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.*

Part a:

KATA = down + LALEO = speak; This means literally to speak down, translated *speak evil*.

ME - negative adverb = *no* or *do not*, combined with the imperative verb KATALALEO (*DO NOT SPEAK DOWN*); this means do not *speak down* on someone, or slander them.

LALEO is a verb that derives from the noun LOGOS (from where we get our English word LOGIC). Logic involves reason and thought.

On the other hand, LALEO is anamopoetic (as in "La-La... Blah-Blah"...), and indicates noise without logic, empty-headed words, noise, babble, or mindless chatter. This means talking down is not based on thoughtfulness and logic. It's just *slander*. What is being forbidden here is careless babble that is *slandorous*, whether it is *true* or *untrue*.

James has already addressed the tongue multiple times in this great epistle. In James 1:26 we see claims of religion must be met with having a bridled tongue. The tongue is *an extension of the heart*, so the believer is to speak and act as those who are constantly being judged by *the law*. But what law? This *is not* a reference to the Mosaic Law, but rather a reference to the *law of liberty*, *also we call it the law of love* (James 2:12). James explains that though a tiny member, the tongue is capable of accomplishing mighty things if properly bridled. And he reminds us that if not properly bridled, the tongue can cause great harm; as a raging fire, it must be controlled (James 3:6-12).

God built us in such a way as to enclose the tongue; our tongue is a hidden member, enclosed in teeth, cheeks, and jaws: a small thing that can so easily do great good, or great harm.

The Tongue:

1. In the first part of verse 11, James emphasizes to stop misusing the tongue: STOP SPEAKING EVIL is a verb in the imperative mood. ALLELON in the Greek means *one another of the same kind*, a reference to believers in relationship to each other. LALEO is the word meaning babble, or to speak foolishly, or to prattle or chatter. Babies babble. This is speech without thought.
2. James now retraces the roads he has traveled in previous passages concerning the use and the abuse of the tongue (James 1:26; 2:12; 3:1-5).
3. James speaks of the bridled tongue in James 1:26.
4. The tongue reveals the inward thoughts and motivations of the heart, and what the person is really like.
5. James 2:12 presents God's law: the law of liberty, which is the law of love.
6. The tongue is capable of accomplishing mighty things if it is properly harnessed (James 3:1-5).
7. The tongue is also capable of causing great harm like a raging fire.
8. In our passage (4:11) we see the tongue can build up, or the tongue can tear down. If we are not careful, we can give false reports and bring false charges. *God is interested in our words*. Sometimes we are not careful in the use of our words.

In James 4:17 we see that we should not be knowing the right thing to do, then *not be doing it*.

Are you applying what you've learned from the Book of James over the last few months?

We must avoid careless babbling, and we must stop speaking evil of one another.