

Pastor Joby Martin

JAMES

Tame the Tongue



James 2 (ESV)

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

James 3 (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.

James 3 (ESV)

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. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

James 3 (ESV)

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.

James 3 (ESV)

11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

James 4 (ESV)

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

The Main Idea

Out of the overflow of the mouth, the heart speaks.
Does your mouth reveal that you need heart surgery?

Words Matter

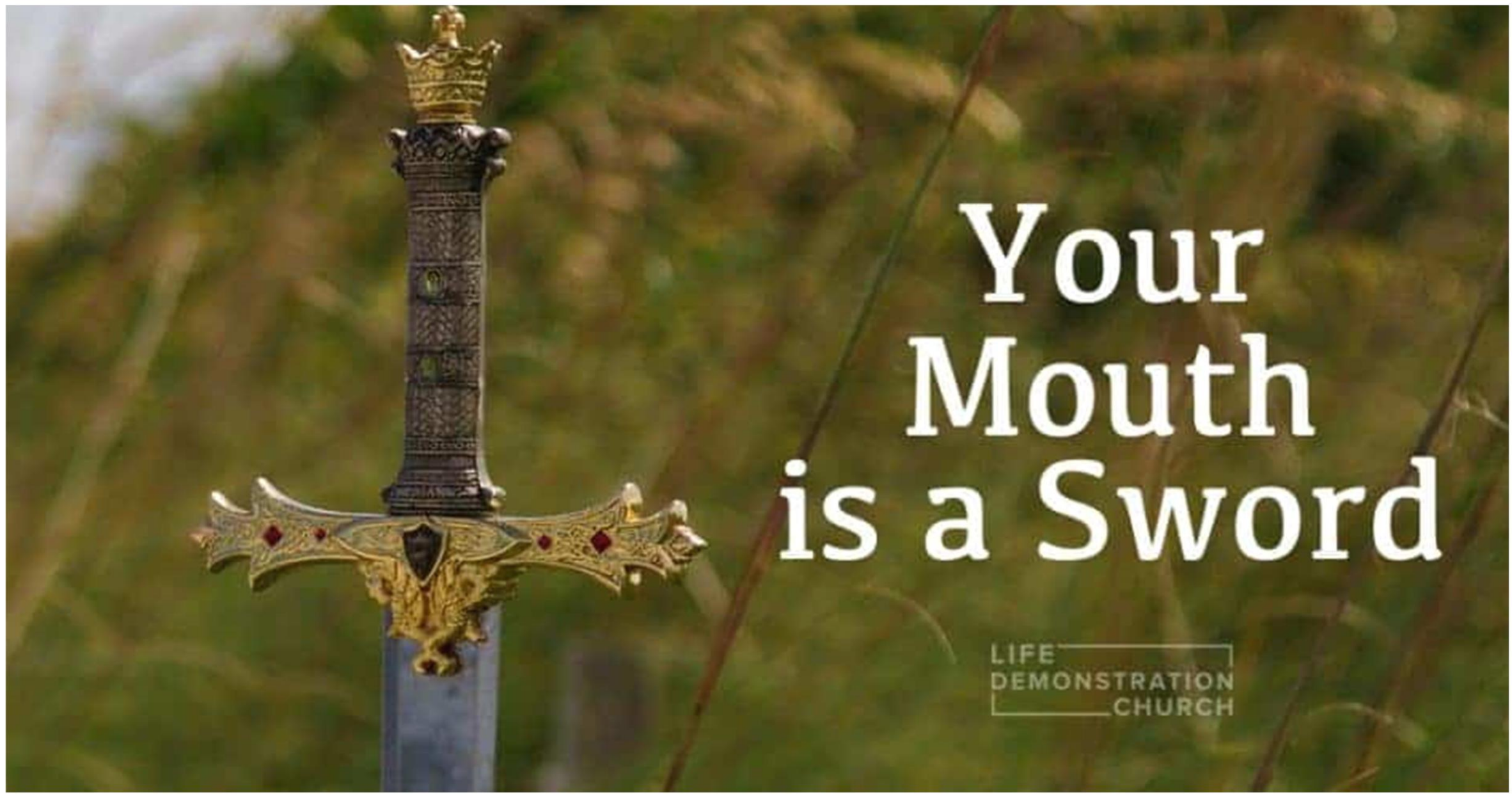


Words Matter

- Create worlds
- Speak into others lives
- Can be a blessing (grow things) or a cursing
- Reveal our wretchedness & need for a Savior
- Death & life are in the power of our words
- Truth does not give license to use words

Words Matter

- Need to beware of how we talk to others & ourself
- Dad's words are especially important

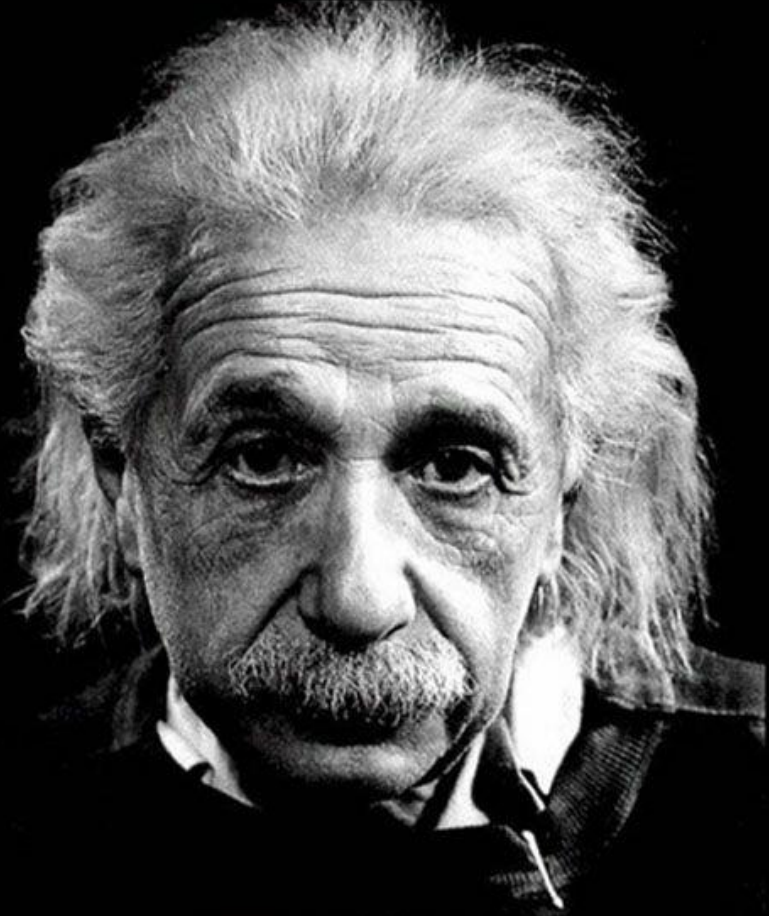


Your Mouth is a Sword

LIFE
DEMONSTRATION
CHURCH

Your Mouth is a Sword

- Proverbs is filled with cautions
- All creatures can be tamed, but not our tongues
- Unbridled words can destroy our ministry
- Cancel culture
- Tone matters
- Careless (sarcasm) corrupt (Gangrene) words leave scars
- Healing is a process



Use Words Wisely

Use Words Wisely

- We are image bearers of God
- He does not approve of us cursing His image bearers
- We will be accountable for our words – Justified or condemned
- Don't judge, complain, argue or grumble
- Inside & outside thoughts
- Peter got in trouble by his words

Use Words Wisely

- Conversations can differ by time & place (occasion)
- God can use our words to overcome Satan's work to poison our hearts
- Examples
 - Horse's bridle
 - Ship's rudder
 - Spark to a fire

Use Words Wisely

- Cursing with bless words & blessing with curse words
- Feelings will eventually follow Biblical truth
- Pray out loud
- Ambassadors of reconciliation - "I'm sorry"

Questions

- You are created in God's image. What does that imply about the power of your words?
- What's it like to be on the other side of me?
- If all your conversations this week were recorded and broadcast for everyone to hear, what would you want to erase and what would you want to save?
- Words can tear down or bless others. What are you saying to yourself about yourself?

Questions

- To whom do you need to tell that you are sorry for the words you used against them?
- What scars do you have from being stabbed by careless words?

A blacksmith is working at an anvil, with sparks flying from the point of contact. The background is a dark, textured surface with a red and green gradient. The name 'JAMES' is written in a white, brush-stroke font across the middle of the image.

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