

## Carey Baptist Church

### 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 – James 3: 1-12 – *Serpent in my mouth*

Thanks for the invite to share the Word of God in the Precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are looking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of the book of James which was written by the half-brother of our Lord.

James being the teacher himself and addresses the 'Teachers' is interesting. This is one of the reasons that I'm reluctant to be a teacher unless...unless God calls. Because when God calls, we should ask if we are to obey the mere humans or obey God in sharing the Good news of the cross and salvation. HE may not ask you to teach. V2 – bluntly puts it as "never at fault of what he says" you see what a great emphasis he sets on our speech? But I am glad his statement follows with saying 'We all stumble in many ways'. Then how come he is expecting us never to be at fault?

Whom do you think James was referring when he wrote this? "Never at fault" Our Lord Jesus. James is the first-hand witness to this. Same home, same food, same parents and may have shared the same clothes as well. Brother, I have a wedding in Cana, may I borrow your cloak please...

Yet, we should thrive to be like our Saviour, Lord Jesus. Because this is how we could please HIM. Our Prayer should be, "Lord I am trying, and I want to be like you but notwithstanding my many failures, I know you are helping me to become like you. I believe that and please help my unbelief"

Let's look at v3-5. James gives many dreadful and solid examples of the nature of the tongue. Before he comes to the evil part, he talks about boasting. Why? Because with the use of the tongue we boast. Every day we come across so many people who do great boasts and we do greater boasts each day. Don't we? Should we boast or not? What does the scripture say about boasting? 1 Corinthians 1:31 says "Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the

Lord” Paul says it is written, where? If you look at your foot note, it may reference - Jeremiah 9:24.

Which states ‘but let the one who boasts boast about this:

that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord’. You see if you really want to boast, still you could please the Lord.

Galatians 6:14 says “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” When did we last give glory to God? When did we last say ‘I thank God for that’ when someone patted our back & said ‘well done’?

God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:26-30). Whatever good may come from our ministry, we have no reason to boast because, humanly speaking, we are “weak,” “foolish,” “lowly,” and “despised.” All the glory goes to God and God alone.

You may ask now, Who says that Chami, when all my time and energy is spent on preparing today’s sermon.

I would say that God says it through Prophet Isaiah in ch.42: v8-‘I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols’.

True boasting in the Lord is actually boasting of the Lord—boasting of His great attributes, boasting of what He has done for us, of what He is still doing and of what He has promised to do.

Then how about the Lord! Does HE boast? Yes, HIS love is so great that HE delights in us. Isn’t that amazing? Sometimes when the whole world is jealous of our success or the achievements, remember that there is one person who isn’t. Lord our God is delighted, and HE is showing the heavenly rulers & authorities of heavenly realms pointing to you and me, HIS Church, the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now you may think, Oh Chami, is that in the Bible? Let's have a quick look. Ephesians 3:10&11 *"His intent was that now, **through the Church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Let's move on—V6 – here also, James puts again a huge emphasis on our speech. He ends verse 6 stating, 'the tongue is itself set on fire by hell.'

I can't exactly tell you why, maybe he himself had a bad mouth or he knew someone in the family who had a foul mouth, or a relative or a friend. We don't know that he was a victim of that or bullying because of someone's words, but what I've learned was that the reference point is the Lord! Discipline your words and be like HIM! Not only my bro but my Saviour.

Most of all, our God knows the gravity or the repercussions of the negative words that HE breathed this into HIS scripture. Remember the words spoken by the Lord to the fig tree? Did not even take 24hours for it to die or wither. Proverbs say that the 'Tongue has the power of life and death'.

Here's a classic example of our biggest mistakes. We pray for healing, but we own the sickness! Let me say that again, we pray for healing, but we own the sickness! You may ask, Chami how?

We call our sicknesses **OUR or Mine!** My headache, my wound, my pain, my tumour, my cancer. We have taken the ownership!!!

Now you may wonder, come on Chami what does it matter, if that's not my headache, is that then yours? Don't let the evil one make you compromise the Word of God. Remember, the power of death, let alone sickness.

Dear friends, don't do this. The sickness is from the evil one and you don't want to own that. Rebuke the sickness in the name of the Lord and tell the sickness that it does not belong to you who is the child of the Almighty God. Don't even mourn. Now you may think, Chami even you are suffering with back pain and this pain and how could

you? Let me assure you my friends, that I am so pleased of my weakness because when I am weak then I am strong. That's what the Lord says in HIS Word and I do believe it.

What makes you think that the Lord cannot provide healing when the scripture says in Phil: 4:19 that "my God shall ALL your need".

HE is the Almighty, HE does not need the help of the physicians to heal you, but HE can use them, HE does not need medicines to heal you, but he can use them, HE does not need clouds to give you rain but he can use them, why? Because HE created them. They all belong to HIM, and HIM alone. HE does not want you to win the lottery to bless you, HE can and will bless you with all the luxuries, success and flourish your life without a reason, why? Because HE is the almighty God. You don't even need to sweat a drop.

Look at Ephesians 3:20 *'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us'*

HE does not need clouds my friends. Look at 1 Kings 18:41 Elijah, did not even see the clouds but trusted in the Lord.

Let me end with verses 9-12 which I trust the most important part. James says 'With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be'

We promise the Lord so many things. The truth is that we stumble even after so many pledges to God and HE knows that, but the beauty is the prayer what I stated at the start, if you remember to ask for HIS help before even, we begin to talk.

Help in which way, you may ask. Help to speak the way our Lord Jesus spoke, to encourage, to comfort, to assure people and never to discourage. Let's start at our own homes under our own roofs appreciating each other with Christ like love.

Amen.....

