

VIII. Taming the Tongue - Part 1

A. Stricter Judgment- vs 1-2a

1. let not many of you become teachers

a. *didaskalos* - an instructor:--doctor, master, teacher.

i. Often used of Rabbis or an official teaching or preaching role

ii. Suggests that James is speaking to the teaching office in the church

b. Rabbis

i. master teachers

ii. Were accorded great honor and respect by their fellow Jews

iii. As seen in the gospels, liked the prestige and privilege - Mt 23:2-7

iv. In some circle, the duty to the rabbi was greater than to the parents
- if parents and rabbi were held hostage, the rabbi was to be ransomed first

- b/c parents gave life, rabbi teaches of life to come

v. didn't receive payment for services, considered a great honor to support a rabbi, especially if you received him into your house to do so

vi. some desired to become teachers due to this type of recognition

c. Synagogue and early church practices

i. respected Jewish men might be given opportunity to speak

ii. Jesus read scripture and gave the interpretation various times - Lk 4:15-21, 31; Mt 4:23; 9:35

iii. Paul and Barnabas did likewise - Acts 13:5, 14-15; 14:1

iv. Common in early church for mature men to speak - 1 Co 14:26

d. James intentions

i. is not trying to discourage these practices

ii. is not trying to discourage those who are called into the ministry

iii. Is trying to call those who think they are called into ministry to first test themselves as to the consistency of their faith - Jas 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

e. God's expectations of teachers

i. OT - Num 11:29b Oh, that all the LORD'S people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

ii. NT - Mt 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- 1Ti 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

- 1Co 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

f. James is calling those who will teach to understand the seriousness of what they are to be doing

i. Eze 3:17-19 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from

Me: "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. "Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

ii. The warning is repeated in Ezek 33:7-9

iii. Paul indicates that he understands that this warning was active in his day

- Ac 18:6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

- Ac 20:26-27 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

b. Writer of Hebrews speaks of the preacher/teachers duties in reference to the people - Heb 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

c. Erroneous, misleading, and confusing theology was a problem in Ephesus 1Ti 1:3-7 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

d. Peter and Jude gave severe warnings against false teachers

i. 2Pe 2:1-3

ii. Jude 1:8, 10, 16

e. Paul warns the Church at Ephesus given through Timothy - 1 Tim 6:3-5

f. Teachers should not go beyond what God says - Nu 22:18; 24:13

2. My brethren - those who name the name of Christ

3. knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment

a. we - teachers

b. stricter judgment -

i. Jas 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

ii. 2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

iii. **krima** - a decision (the function or the effect, for or against ("crime")):-
-avenge, condemned, condemnation, damnation, + go to law, judgment.

4. For we all stumble in many things.

a. no one is exempt

b. stumble - **patio** - to trip, to err, sin, fail (of salvation):--fall, offend, stumble.

c. in many ways

i. Pr 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

ii. 2Ch 6:36a "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin)