



SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGE

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

by Ray Reynolds (March 25, 2012)

Text: **James 3:8-4:12**

Introduction: Have you read the stories of Jesus casting out demons? There is one particular occasion (**Matthew 12, Mark 3**) where the Pharisees see an opportunity to quench the Spirit of God. Jesus warns them that their words revealed their heart. Where does all of this come from? James gives us the insight (**James 3:8-4:12**). What can we learn from it?

Discussion:

I. *Our Lips Reveal Our Heart*

- A. The use of the word "heart" in the Bible
Exodus 28:29-30, Proverbs 4:23-24
- B. The use of the word "heart" in Jesus' ministry
Matthews 5:8, 5:28, 6:21, 11:29, 13:15, 22:37, Mark 2:8, Luke 2:19, 24:38
- C. The use of the word "heart" in Paul's ministry
Acts 21:13, Romans 6:17, 10:8, 10:10, II Corinthians 7:3, Philippians 1:7

II. *Our Lips Reveal Our Control*

- A. The purpose of our ears, eyes, and mouth
Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 12:37, Job 34:3-4
- B. The purpose of thoughtful responses
James 3:10, Colossians 4:6, Job 6:6, Mark 9:50
- C. The purpose of salt and words seasoned with salt
Matthew 5:13, II Kings 2:20-28, Ezekiel 16:4, Mark 9:50, Matthew 12:34

III. *Our Lips Reveal Our Thoughts*

- A. Complaining reveals immaturity - the sign of a weak heart
Numbers 11:4, 14:27, 17:5, 17:10, Proverbs 21:19, 27:3, John 6:43, 6:61, Acts 18:14, Philippians 2:14, I Peter 4:9
- B. Swearing reveals blasphemy - the sign a sacrilegious heart
Leviticus 24:11, II Samuel 16:10, 16:13, Job 31:30, Psalm 109:18, Hosea 4:2. Matthew 5:34, Romans 3:14
- C. Boasting reveals pride - the sign an arrogant heart
Romans 3:27, I Corinthians 9:15, 15:31, II Corinthians 1:12, 7:4, 7:14, 8:24, 9:3, 10:15, 11:16,-17, 12:11, James 4:16
- D. Gossiping reveals ignorance - the sign a thoughtless heart
Proverbs 11:13, 16:28, 18:8, 20:19, 26:20, 26:22, Romans 1:29, II Corinthians 12:20, I Timothy 5:13
- E. Judging reveals self-righteousness - the sign a critical heart
Deuteronomy 1:17, I Samuel 7:16, II Chronicles 19:6, Proverbs 24:23, Isaiah 16:5, Matthew 7:1-6, 19:28, Luke 6:37, 22:30, John 7:24, II Corinthians 10:7

IV. *Our Lips Reveal Our Master*

- A. Are you serving the Lord?
- B. Are you serving the Lord's enemy?

Conclusion: What does James teach? Where do all these wars and conflicts come from among us? Whose side are you fighting on? God knows our thoughts (**Psalm 139:4, Hebrews 4:12**). What does He see? What does your heart reveal? Allow God to get you back on course.

WORD OF THE DAY = "LIPS"