

PLEASE SORRY THANKS

Please, Sorry, Thanks

April 23, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: James 3:9-10, Genesis 1:28, 1 John 1:9-10

Sermon Overview: For better or worse, our words function as self-fulfilling prophecies and create worlds. If you want to change the world, change your words. Just as ships are steered with a rudder, our tongue steers the direction of our life. Our words have the power to help us win or lose, hurt or heal, bless or curse.

Two Rules of Life:

1. Everyone is my superior in some way; in that I LEARN from them.
2. Everyone is fighting a battle I know nothing about; in that I EMPATHIZE with them.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. Memorize five promises of God. Use these five promises to change your mental outlook and the words you are prophesying over your life.
2. How has God used His Word to change the world you live in?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. What do you need to stop saying? What have you knowingly or unknowingly been saying with your words?
2. What do you need to start saying? Which areas of your life, or the world around you, would you like to purposefully and intentionally bless?
3. Some of the most important decisions are pre-decisions. Pastor Mark pre-decided to live an unoffendable life. What pre-decision can you make, to partner with God, in order to walk in love with others and yourself?
4. Can you think of a time recently where you considered yourself superior to someone around you? In what way might that person actually be your superior? How can you learn from that person?

Digging Deeper:

- In the next few days, schedule a window of time in your calendar to sit with the Lord and ask, “Lord, is there anyone I need to forgive in my life?” Write a list. Then take that list and forgive each person and release them to God, so you can move forward unencumbered. Ex: Lord, I choose to forgive _____ for _____. I release them to you now in Jesus’ name. Now, choose a blessing from God’s Word and prophesy that blessing over the person you forgave.
- Read James 3:9 and Genesis 1:28. How are they mirror image verses? How does the verse from James *not* mirror Genesis? Why do you think that is? How can our new image in Christ renew the image that James 3:9 presents? Make this practical. Think of a time this week that your word did not bless someone. Can you imagine a scenario in which they might be fighting a battle you know nothing about? Find a life-giving verse and speak words of empathy, healing, and blessing over that person and that situation.

Practical Application:

- Write yourself a note to see in the morning that says, “Today I choose to use my words to bless, to speak words of healing, to live unoffended and forgive quickly. Thank you Lord that your grace empowers me.”
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Check out our upcoming May pop-up groups on our website. They are all listed at ncc.re/groups.
- Join us for [House of Prayer](#), Thursdays at 7:14 pm at the Capital Turnaround, and enjoy dinner on us! / Or plug in through [Upper Zoom](#) Prayer, Wednesdays at 7:14 am.