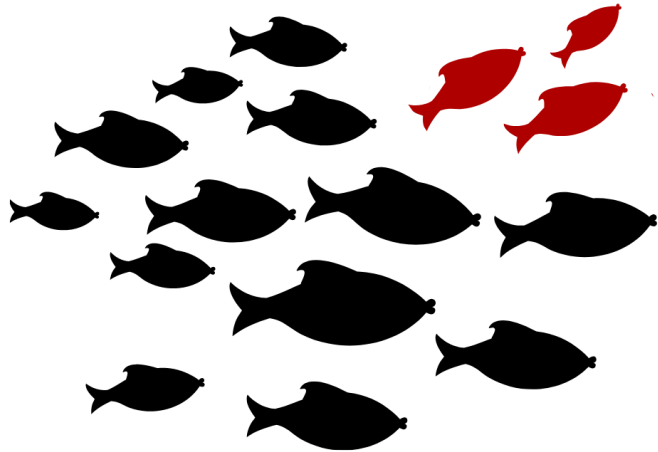


JAMES

*WISDOM FOR DISSIDENTS**



JAMES 3:1-12
MAY 21, 2023

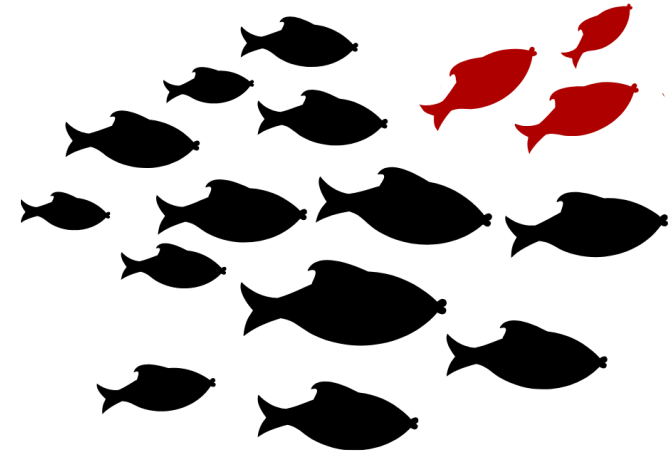
Spring/Summer 2023

The book of James is one of the earliest writings of the New Testament and given as wisdom to followers of Jesus who were facing severe trials. However, this wisdom does not align with the prevailing wisdom of any age. The Gospel of Jesus creates loving dissidents – those who dissent from the dominant way of being and, instead, live in step with the Kingdom of God. This dissent may be subtle or strong, but it is always a result of following Jesus in a culture committed to following many other things. Further, this type of wisdom pictures an alternate way of life for a world that desperately needs it. James is wisdom for such a life.

* This title is inspired by Pastor Jeff Meyers' commentary with the same subtitle.

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The Power of Death and Life

May 21, 2023 | James 3:1-12 | Pastor Roger Williams

*Though death is in the power of the tongue,
the LORD can redeem our speech to be a life-giving gift.*

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruits.
- Proverbs 18:21 -*

James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For 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. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look 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. ⁵So 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! ⁶And 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.

⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

James 1 ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger...²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

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