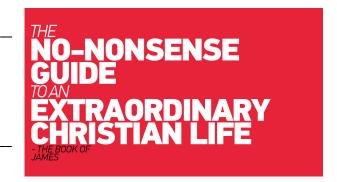# #10 "Do Not Speak Evil"
James 4:11-12
MIKE ARMSTRONG | MAY 18, 2014

Warming Up

1. With respect to your patterns of speech, where do you struggle the most? Lying? Gossip? Sarcasm? Vulgar/obscene language? Judgmental spirit? Complaints? Angry outbursts? False flattery? Other? Be honest.

Digging In

2. What does it look like to "speak against/speak evil against" someone? Have you ever been on the receiving end of this? How is it being around such a person?

3. When James speaks of "the one who . . . judges his brother," what is this about? What does it mean and what doesn't it mean to judge? How does Matthew 7:1 fit with this?

4. What is James referencing with "the law" in this passage? (Check out James 2:8 for some insight.) How do speaking evil against and/or judging our brothers and sisters in Christ actually desecrate God's Word? Why is this a big deal?

5. Discuss the quote by Ralph Venning that "all sin goes about to ungod God." What does this mean? How does our sin reveal our low view of God? Explain.

6. James offers a stinging rebuke to his audience: "Who are you to judge your neighbour?" What is he really getting at? Why is the question "Who am I to be _____?" one that we need to ask regularly?

7. Pastor Mike said, "At the end of the day, the antidote to all of our sin is the gospel." What is your response? How does this work? What is your understanding of the gospel?

8. Two important questions for us to ask as we seek to overcome our sin issues are:
(a) Why do I do _____? and (b) How does the gospel speak to this issue? Apply these questions to the issue of judging others with your words. What are some of the potential reasons for speaking this way? How does the gospel counteract this pattern?

Breaking Out

9. What area of your speech was the Holy Spirit convicting you of during the message? How can applying the two questions above help move you toward greater victory? Pray for the members of your small group, and commit to check back in on this issue.

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