

The Spring of Fresh Water

“11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.” (James 3:11-12)

Just imagine yourself coming from outside during a hot weather. Surely you feel thirsty and request to drink a cup of cold water. Then someone will bring to you that cup to drink. The water that looks so transparent with the cold feeling of the glass satisfies you and quenches your thirst even before you can drink it. But what will be your response when in the same glass that is filled with fresh and cold water you will see dirt or sand in it, will you be happy to take and drink it? Absolutely it is not appealing to eyes and to the soul. How about if in a certain place they always serve cold water in dirty glasses, will you still go there and ask for a drink?

“Can both fresh and salt water flow from the same spring?” A spring of water will only flow a certain type of water – either fresh or salty. This description in the Bible is used to speak about the tongue. The tongue is the part of the body that produces words and it is similar to the spring of water. It is either the source of sweet fresh water that speaks good, pleasant, and kind words which everyone likes to hear; or the source of strong salty water that speaks bad, evil, and rude words which causes people to go away.

The mouth is the place of the great value and of the great influence for our lives and for the lives of people who are living with us and around us. God has given us every part of our body to be used for good and noble purposes, and one of those parts of our body is our tongue. It is not only given to taste food or drink, but to be used to speak words helpful to build others. The Bible says that, ***“13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.” (Romans 6:13)*** Therefore, ***“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” (Ephesians 4:29)***

When you enter a house and you hear many words of complaints and speaking against many people, will you be happy to stay there? When you hear expressions of bad words, scandals, strong and painful shouts, green jokes, lies and slanderous stories, are you refreshed? Will you still continue to go to that house? Just imagine, ***“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who***

have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.” (James 3:9-10)

God has given us our tongue to praise Him. We praise God by our mouths and we give thanks by our tongues and lips for the great work that God has done for us. He came from heaven. He became man, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins on the cross. He rose from the death to give eternal life to everyone who believes. For this reason we praise God, and for all what He has done for us. Let us also speak good about the people around us because God has created them according to His likeness.

The mouth and the tongue is the fountain of life. It is the attraction to many to come and listen to us and to be built up in faith by the truth and Godly words that we speak to them. The Bible says: ***“19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)***

When you enter a place and you hear the people singing to God and praising Him and thanking Him for all what He has given to them you will be blessed; and when you hear them speaking to each other using the word of God in the Bible you will find yourself refreshed and attracted to the beauty. Then you will keep going to that place because it is the spring of fresh water.

My dear and beloved: From the above description you are left with two options: First your mouth will be the spring of salty water, where you use your mouth to bite and attack others by slandering and accusing them, or by telling lies and fabricated stories. Such behavior will keep the people away from you, including your own family, your relatives and friends. Second, your mouth will be the spring of fresh water because you speak the word of wisdom and knowledge that gives rest to the soul and brings peace to everyone who hear. This will build up the people who listen, and you will find them quite interested to come to you and listen to what you speak.

As you read the word of God, meditate on what it says, check yourself and see what kind of spring you have – the spring of fresh or salty water. Then commit yourself to God and ask Him to change you, to always bring out the fresh water from your mouth to praise Him and to bless Him.

My Prayer: *“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross and raised from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, I bring my mouth into your hand. Touch my lips, cleanse my tongue, and make my mouth to speak your word that brings peace, joy, love, and true life to me and to others. Thank you, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*