

Sunday, September 15, 2024

## Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

*We must be big enough to admit our mistakes, smart enough to profit from them, and strong enough to correct them. —John C. Maxwell (adapted)*

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Today, the subject is the humble eraser. Yes, that little red, rubbery knob that's affixed to the top of a pencil. Of course, not all erasers are *pencil* erasers. Whereas some erasers are great for removing errant pencil marks, others are made especially for *pen or ink* mistakes.

In life, we need literal erasers to correct errors. But erasers have strong allegorical applications as well, and they remind us of the positive uses of erasers.

For example, an artist in the process of creating something beautiful — a piano concerto, a landscape painting, a drawing, etc. — uses erasers or some other tools, to shape, modify or mold their creations, selectively removing lines, notes, pigments or shades to bring their vision to life. The eraser becomes a tool of precision, enabling these creative souls to achieve intricate details and subtle nuances in their work. An eraser is not just an instrument for undoing or correcting a problem; it is also a medium for creative expression.

But sometimes, erasers serve as *correctors*. They exist to expunge unexpected and unwelcome errors. In today's Bible reading, the apostle James worries about the power of the tongue to injure the feelings of others. The tongue is powerful, and we are prone to saying things we regret, and unfortunately, once the words are out, they are hard to recall!

That's why, when we have misspoken, the best eraser is the remedy of confession and apology. Absent these "erasures," this page of our lives is going to be full of unsightly stains.

So, the eraser is a symbol of *second chances*. In the world of pencils and erasers, every mistake is an opportunity to make it right. The eraser, with its simple yet powerful function, embodies the concept of redemption in the ebb and flow of our everyday lives. It reminds us that errors are not necessarily permanent, but rather, they can be forgiven and erased by the greatest eraser of all time, the work of Christ on the cross.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for this reminder of the importance of watching how I use my words. Encourage me to take care of the mistakes I make. In your name. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Linda & Pastor Ben Motz*

**Daily Bible Readings**

- Sunday:** 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Monday:** 2 Chronicles 23-25
- Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 26-29
- Wednesday:** 2 Chronicles 30-32
- Thursday:** 2 Chronicles 33-36
- Friday:** Ezekiel 1-3
- Saturday:** Psalms 103-105

# JUMBLE!

**Directions:** Each of the six scrambled words has a connection with each other. That connection is revealed in the two-word solution below that must be unscrambled using the letters in the shaded boxes.

I	C	A	H	M				
K	A	K	K	B	H	A	U	
B	O	J						
W	R	E	B	H	E	S		
S	M	A	O					
M	A	L	S	E	U			


I	K	B	B	O	B	S	O	L	E

**Solution to JUMBLE:** Micah, Habakkuk, Job, Hebrews, Amos, Samuel. **BIBLE BOOKS:** COMMON WORDS: 1. last, 2. chicken, 3. picture, 4. paper, 5. green, 6. cherry, 7. house, 8. girl, 9. white, 10. gold, 11. straight, 12. glass, 13. free, 14. yellow.

**COMMON WORDS**

**Directions:** Add one word to the beginning of each word in the series to create a phrase. For example, to the words alert, carpet and herring, you could insert the word red to create red alert, red carpet and red herring. Write the word that is common to all in the space provided.

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. rites, straw, word:     | 8. friend, scout, Friday:      |
| 2. little, leg, casserole: | 9. hat, elephant, knight:      |
| 3. frame, perfect, this:   | 10. digger, dust, brick:       |
| 4. weight, tiger, mache:   | 11. ahead, line, away:         |
| 5. thumb, hornet, earth:   | 12. eye, house, blower:        |
| 6. picker, bomb, tomato:   | 13. association, fall, lance:  |
| 7. arrest, plant, fly:     | 14. jacket, fever, journalism: |

