

June 14, 2015
James 3:1-12

TAMING THE TONGUE

I. Introduction:

"We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check." : James 3:1-12

II. WHY MUST I WATCH WHAT I SAY?

1. MY TONGUE DIRECTS _____ . (vs. 3-4)

"When we put bits in the mouths of horses ... we can turn the whole animal." (vs. 3)

"Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go." (vs. 4)

2. MY TONGUE CAN DESTROY _____ (vs. 5-8)

"Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue is also a fire ..." (vs. 5)

"... it sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." (vs. 6b)

"All kinds of animals ... have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." (vs. 7-8)

3. MY TONGUE DISPLAYS _____ (vs. 9-12)

"Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." (vs. 10)

"Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ... can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine bear figs?" (vs. 11-12)

THE PROBLEM: _____

"For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Matt. 12:34

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

1. _____

"Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit!" Ezekiel 18:31

2. _____

"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3

3. _____

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19

**Points To Ponder
For Week of June 15th to 20th
James 3:1-12**

Open It:

1. *If you could hear a tape recording of everything you said last week, what would you want to edit out?
2. How do you react when you hear someone cursing and using abusive language?
3. How can a person be hurt by the words of others?
4. What can you learn about a person by listening to him or her speak?

Explore It:

5. What unique responsibility does a teacher bear? [\(3:1\)](#)
6. *If a person were never at fault in what he or she said, what would that show about the person? [\(3:2\)](#)
7. *What is significant about the way we talk? [\(3:2\)](#)
8. What is the purpose of a bit in the mouth of a horse? [\(3:3\)](#)
9. What is the purpose of the rudder of a ship? [\(3:4\)](#)
10. What damage can a small spark cause to a great forest? [\(3:4\)](#)
11. What similarity does a person's tongue have to a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, and a spark of fire? [\(3:5\)](#)
12. How did James describe the tongue? [\(3:6-8\)](#)
13. What damage do our tongues do to us? [\(3:6\)](#)
14. *What is so difficult about taming the tongue? [\(3:7-8\)](#)

15. Of what inconsistencies are we capable? [\(3:9-10\)](#)
16. In what ways are we inconsistent? [\(3:9-10\)](#)

17. What illustrations from nature did James use to condemn cursing? ([3:11-12](#))
18. What can a spring or a fruit tree teach us about speech? ([3:11-12](#))

Get It:

19. What motivates a person to teach others?
20. How is a teacher in the church supposed to be different from the average member?
21. Why will God judge teachers more strictly than other people?
22. *What are the ways we sin with our speech?
23. Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
24. How is our speech influenced by others around us?
25. What practical advice would you give someone who wanted to control his or her tongue better?
26. What weaknesses in our lives does our speech often expose?
27. *In what times or places can your tongue be used for good?
28. How can you change your daily speech to reflect its importance in your life?

Apply It:

29. What do you need to remove from your speech habits this week to make your words more pleasing to God?
30. *What positive words do your family and coworkers need to hear from your mouth this week?