

Taming the Tongue

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(James 3:1-12) My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring forth fresh water and bitter water from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Tongue Facts

(Psalm 141:3 LB) Help me, Lord, to keep my mouth shut and my lips sealed.

- ✓ The tongue is small but powerful.
 - The tongue is a bridle.
 - The tongue is a rudder.
 - The tongue is a spark

- ✓ The tongue has been a problem since the day we were born.
- ✓ The tongue is humanly untamable.
- ✓ The tongue is twisted.

How to Tame the Tongue

(Psalm 19:14 NKJV) Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

1. Pause.
(James 1:19 NKJV) My beloved brother, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
2. Ponder.

THINK before you speak:
T - is it True?
H - is it Helpful?
I - is it Inspiring?
N - is it Necessary?
K - is it Kind?
3. Pray.
(Matthew 12:34 NKJV) Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.