

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

James 3:1-18 – Jason Finke

In this week's passage, James discusses the untamable tongue. He illustrates the tongue's control with two examples – a horse's bits and a ship's rudder. Each of these demonstrate how a much larger object can be steered (controlled) by a much smaller one. In the same way, the tongue has great power to influence everything in a person's life. James also compares the tongue's destructive power to a small fire that ignites a forest. He states that while the human race has tamed every species of animal, we cannot tame the tongue. Furthermore, James notes that man uses his tongue both to bless God and curse man, and that it should not be this way. Finally, he contrasts earthly and heavenly wisdom.

The main point of the sermon was that God created the tongue to be a delight to him and all people, but we have more often used it for destruction, which shows us our need for Jesus. Will organized the sermon around three points.

1. **The tongue was created to be delightful**
2. **The tongue is used for destruction**
3. **The tongue of Jesus**

Discussion

1. In the sermon, Will noted that the tongue can be used for building up the body of Christ (reference Ephesians 4:29). **Read 1 Corinthians 14:3-4 & 1 Thessalonians 5:14.** What are some ways we can build up our fellow believers according to these passages? Are there additional ways we can build up others? Why don't we build up fellow believers more often?
2. Will stated that instead of using our tongues to build up, we frequently use them for destruction. What are some ways we use our words for destruction? **Read Matthew 12:34, Matthew 15:18-20, & Jeremiah 17:9.** According to these passages, why do we use our tongues for destruction?
3. Finally, Will discussed how our propensity to use our tongues for destruction instead of building up shows us our need for Jesus. How does recognition of our sinfulness point us to our need for Jesus? Why is a recognition of our sinfulness necessary for salvation?