

07/05/26 Message

Part of Real ReligionA Journey Through the Book of James
July 4, 2026

Message: Tame the Wild

Series: Real Religion

Background

This series is an exposition of the book of James, written by Jesus' brother who "found faith" after His death, burial, and resurrection. James was writing to a persecuted church, and he wanted them to understand the difference between man-made religion and true, genuine, real religion.

We see something happen in James that should be what happens to us once we grasp who Jesus really is. James became full of the Holy Spirit who lit a fire inside him that made people notice this man was changed!

—Pastor Chad

James is shouting:

- Walking with Jesus is not about RELIGION it's about RELATIONSHIP!

The Salty Spring

James 3:1-12 (NLT)

1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.

2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth.

4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong.

5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand

speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

6 And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish,

8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God.

10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

11 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water?

12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

- James says no one can tame the tongue!

Tame the wild, taming the tongue, it's hard, some call it impossible, but here's the truth, there are animals in the world that aren't tame, yet they're not a threat to us. Why? Because they are controlled and contained!

—Pastor Chad

- Real religion starts with your tongue because your tongue reveals your heart, it reveals your brain, it reveals what consumes you, how you feel, what you're thinking
 - It reveals you!

James' warning

- You will be held ACCOUNTABLE for your WORDS

I need to explain something here. He's not just talking about spoken words. He's also talking about words that you think and words that you write. You will be held accountable for your words! At the end of the day, it's not about the words themselves, it's about what the words reveal... Your thoughts... Your biases... Your goals... Your desires... Your beliefs... Your intentions...

—Pastor Chad

Danger of the Tongue

- Your tongue is a SMALL thing with enormous POWER

Three examples of small things with enormous power:

Small things that control or destroy something immensely larger than itself

- horse's bit
- ship's rudder
- spark in the forest

- The tongue CORRUPTS and CHARS

When I read v6 it screams out something we all need to understand very carefully. The tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. There's figurative language in the Bible and at times we see poetic imagery, but this isn't metaphorical, it's real. James is saying the tongue corrupts and chars lives, both the one speaking and those listening.

—Pastor Chad

- Read Isaiah 64:6

- BLESSING and CURSING can't coexist

In verses 9-10 we see where James says sometimes our tongues praise the Lord, and sometimes it curses others. Sad thing is, I've heard and likely you've heard, mouths that praise God and curse God. Same mouth and the two are incompatible with each other. It's clear, one is not real.

—Pastor Chad

Help Us James

- You can't tame the wild, but you can control and contain it. You can control and contain the tongue.

- Read **James 1:19**
 - We should be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger
- Read **James 4:6-8**
 - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
 - Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.
- Read **Psalms 141:3**
 - (NIV) Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.
 - (NLT) Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips.

Do you pray that? If you're like me, you need to pray it more. We can't tame our tongue, but we can ask for God's help and through His power, we can control and contain it! See, it's not a discipline issue. It's not something you can practice or exercise. It's a heart issue! It's a relational issue because your words and your actions are a direct reflection of your relationship with God... your proximity to God... if His Spirit lives inside you... or if it doesn't.

—Pastor Chad

- Read **Luke 6:45**
 - (NIV) A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

It's not about trying harder; it's about changing your life!

That's how you tame the wild!