



Title: Practical Living: Taming The Tongue

Scripture: James 3:1-12

Date: 06242018

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: Your words will either build someone up or tear them down.

Vs. 1

Become teachers - James gives us a sober reminder that those who are called to be teachers should take their assignments seriously.

The words of Jesus and James remind us that being among the teachers in God's church is more than a matter of having natural or even spiritual gifts; there is an additional dimension of appropriate character and right living. - Guzik

What God puts in our hands to steward, He can also take away.

Receive a stricter judgement - As a teacher of the word of God there is accountability to what we teach.

Vs. 2

We all stumble in many things - The idea is to be tripped up, or to become hindered in our spiritual progress.

Even though God has us growing in a direction, there are things out there that can trip us up.

Stumble in word - James is not speaking to our ability to speak with clarity. He is referring to the words that we say.

To not stumble in words show true spiritual maturity. - Guzik

A perfect man - What is the measure of a perfect man? The one who does not stumble in word.

The things that we say demonstrate to others our inner character.-Guzik

Our words will either build others up or tear them down.

Whoever does not offend in word is a mature person whether he is a teacher or not, for he who controls his tongue controls his life. - Courson

Vs. 3

bits - James provides an example of a horse. The movement of this animal can be controlled by a bit.

Vs. 4

Very small rudder - James provides a second example. A large ship is controlled by a smaller rudder.

Our tongues are similar in that they control a lot of how we interact with the world around us.

Whoever can control the tongue can bridle the whole body. - Guzik

Vs. 5-6

A little member and boasts great things - James reminds us that a forest fire can start from a simple spark. Likewise our tongues are capable of the same type of destruction.

It can communicate great things to others, but can also destroy others lives.

What others say to us and what we say to others can last a long time, for good or for evil. The casual sarcastic or critical remark can inflict a lasting injury on another person. The well timed encouragement or compliment can inspire someone for the rest of their life. - Guzik

Vs. 7-8

But no man can tame the tongue - Even though God has given us the natural ability to tame wild animals, NO person is capable of taming his/her tongue.

In our own energy, we cannot tame our tongues. We need the Lord. - Courson

The only way to bring our tongues under control is to brought under the power and control of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking forth everything that comes to mind is unwise, poisonous speech. - Wesley

Vs. 9

We curse men - With the same tongue that we praise God with, we curse His creation.

Similitude of God - We are NOT equal to God however we are made in His image.

Vs. 10

Blessing and cursing - James says that out of our mouths flow blessings and curses.

Cursing implies words that bring hurt to someone.

These things ought not to be so - James tells us that we should not be like this. Our mouths should not produce blessings and curses.

Vs. 11-12

Thus no spring yields both saltwater and fresh. - James says that no source of water is both salty and fresh.

[2Ki 2:21 NKJV] Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.' "

As believers, our speech should add salt to conversations

June 24th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



Practical Living: Taming The Tongue

James 3:1-12

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: Your words will either build someone up or tear them down.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What damage can be caused by just a few words of gossip that you pass on?
2. Share an example from your life when suffered from the destructive words of someone else.
3. Read Ephesians 4:29. How does this apply to us?

DO.



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.



Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

DATE: June 24th, 2018

James 3:1-12

1. Our words have power! They have the power to build someone up or tear someone down. What are ways we can use our words for good?
2. We see the power of Jesus' words all throughout the New Testament. There are many stories that show how great things happened just by Jesus speaking. Can you think of a story from the Bible where Jesus spoke and showed His power? (Jesus calmed the storm and he sea, Jesus spoke to the fig tree that didn't bear fruit, Jesus healed a soldier's servant)
3. The tongue is a very small, but very powerful part of our body. James makes some comparisons to show us just how important the tongue is. Do you remember one of the examples James gave to compare the tongue to? (A bit in a horses mouth will lead the whole horse, the rudder of a large ship will steer it, a small spark in a forest can start a large fire)
4. James tells us, "9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be." God is pleased when we obey Him by being kind to others. Every person is made in God's image, so we must remember to treat everyone like they are children of God even when they wrong us. Can you think of ways you can show God's children God's love by the words you speak when you've been hurt?

Memory Verse: "Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips" Psalms 141:3

