

1

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

¹ Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment.

² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body.

2

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

³ Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies.

⁴ And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

3

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

⁵ So too, though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts great things. Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a large forest.



4

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.



5

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

⁷ Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind,
⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.



6

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

⁹ With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness.
¹⁰ Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way.



7

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

¹¹ Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening?
¹² Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.



8

How many of you have ever been strongly impacted, either positively or negatively, by the words someone spoke over you?



9

God spoke and creation, light, and life appeared.
Satan spoke, and humanity fell into sin and death.
The church speaks.



10

Proverbs 18:21 (CSB)
Death and *life* are in the **power of the tongue**, and those who love it will eat its fruit.



11

James 3:1 (CSB)
Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment.



12

James 3:2 (CSB)

For **we all stumble** in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he **says**, he is **mature**, able also to control the whole body.



13

1) When we speak, our words can either bring direction or destruction.



14

Romans 3:13-14 (CSB)

¹³ Their throat is an **open grave**; they deceive with their tongues. Vipers' venom is under their lips.
¹⁴ Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.



15

James 1:26 (CSB)

If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his **tongue**, his religion is **useless** and he deceives himself.



16

James 3:3 (CSB)

Now if we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we direct their whole bodies.




17




18

Who is holding the
reigns of your life?




19

James 3:4 (CSB)
And consider ships: Though very large
and driven by fierce winds, they are
guided by a very small rudder wherever
the will of the pilot directs.



20

James 3:5-6 (CSB)
⁵ So too, though ***the tongue is a small
part of the body***, it boasts great things.
Consider how a small fire sets ablaze a
large forest.



21

James 3:5-6 (CSB)

⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among our members. It stains the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.



22

2) Though the tongue is small, it has the ability to bring about great destruction.



23



24

Proverbs 13:3 (CSB)

The one who guards his mouth protects his life; the one who opens his lips invites his own ruin.



25

“Show me a man or woman who stirs up strife, who is a gossip, or who criticizes everything due to a proud and critical heart, and I will show you someone who has hurt many people in their path, starting in their own home.”

~ David Platt



26

James 3:7-8 (CSB)

⁷ Every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish is tamed and has been tamed by humankind,
⁸ but **no one can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.



27

James 3:9-10 (CSB)

⁹ With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in God's likeness.

¹⁰ **Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth.** My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way.



28

3) Words are the biopsy of the heart.



29

James 3:1-12 (CSB)

¹¹ Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening?

¹² Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.



30

4) Hurtful words are born from hurting hearts.



31

Luke 6:43-45 (CSB)

⁴³ "A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit; on the other hand, a bad tree doesn't produce good fruit.

⁴⁴ For each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs aren't gathered from thornbushes, or grapes picked from a bramble bush.

32

Luke 6:43-45 (CSB)

⁴⁵ A good person produces good out of the good stored up in his heart. An evil person produces evil out of the evil stored up in his heart, for ***his mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.***"



33

Galatians 5:22-23 (CSB)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.



34

Two Keys to Taming the Tongue

1) Together, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, plan the words you want to say ahead of time as much as possible.



35

Two Keys to Taming the Tongue

2) Carve out some time for the Holy Spirit and the Word to fill you at some point near the beginning of your day.



36

God spoke and creation, light, and life appeared.
Satan spoke, and humanity fell into sin and death.
The church speaks.
God has the final word.



37

James 1:18 (CSB)

By his own choice, he gave us birth by the **word of truth**...



38

Revelation 21:5-7 (CSB)

⁵ Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these **words** are faithful and true."



39

Revelation 21:5-7 (CSB)

⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the *spring* of the water of life.



40

Revelation 21:5-7 (CSB)

⁷The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.



41

Psalms 19:14 (CSB)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.



42
