

^{2b} Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check... ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body...
– James 3:2b,5-6a

1. My tongue DIRECTS where I go. (James 3:3-4)
2. My tongue can DESTROY. (James 3:5-6)
 - a. LIES.
 - b. GOSSIP.
 - c. CARELESS words.
3. My tongue DISPLAYS who I am. (James 3:9-10)

How to tame my tongue:

1. Get a new HEART. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
2. Ask God for HELP daily. (Psalm 141:3)
3. T.H.I.N.K. before you SPEAK.
 - T**: Is it TRUE?
 - H**: Is it HELPFUL?
 - I**: Is it INSPIRING?
 - N**: Is it NECESSARY?
 - K**: Is it KIND?

DIGGING DEEPER

JAMES 3:1-12

- Why should “not many should become teachers” (v. 1)? What does James mean by this statement? How does this make sense in light of the New Testament commands and statements (**Matthew 28:19**, **Hebrews 5:12**, and **2 Timothy 2:24-25**) that seem to indicate that all Christians should teach others? (Does v. 2 help you understand v. 1?)
- In what ways can the tongue have a large effect (v. 3-6)? Which analogy for the tongue (a bit in a horse’s mouth, a rudder on a ship, or a fire) do you find most powerful? Why?
- What are some examples of how your own life has been affected by the tongue (either your own or another’s)?
- How can we use our tongue to bless the Lord (v. 9-10)? How can we use it to curse people (v. 9-10)? Do you find yourself doing each of these things?
- Why shouldn’t your tongue both bless God and curse others (v. 10-12)? What makes this contradictory? Besides speech, what else in your life can become contradictory in relationship with blessing/serving God?
- How does this discussion of speaking in James 3 relate to the discussion of faith and works in **James 2:14-26**?
- In the sermon, Pastor Cecil encouraged us to T.H.I.N.K. before we speak. (This seems similar to the command given in **James 1:19-20** to be “slow to speak.”) Is doing this a challenge for you? Why or why not? How can you improve in this area?