

**YOUR WORDS – Pt. 5 - HOW TO TRAIN YOUR TONGUE
5-22-16**

***** Benevolence Fund is dry!**

Series Review:

Title: How To Train Your Tongue - (How To Train Your Dragon – movie)

James, the Brother of Jesus tells us that the tongue is untamable...

Let me clarify his statement - in James 3: 8-10)

The tongue is **humanly untamable** – but it is divinely tamable, and trainable...

******* However – even if it is humanly untamable... that doesn't mean we can just set it free to cause chaos, confusion, and carnage in life and in relationships...

James 1: 26 “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.”

It is important for us to understand God's responsibility - and Our responsibility... explain...

******* When it comes to being rescued from our sin and separation from God, we know that it is God's responsibility to rescue us... It is our responsibility to desire and respond to His rescue! Receive it...

Same is true with our tongue...

Illus. - Have you ever tried to bridle a wild horse... much different than putting a bridle on a tame horse... (explain... wild ponies...)

It takes a long time to tame a wild horse... and it will take some time to tame a wild tongue... so we must learn to tame it and train it...

How to train (bridle) your tongue:

1. STOP AND LISTEN

James 1: 19 “This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger...”

Illus. - Two ears... one mouth...!

? Have you ever had a problem with anger? It's often because we start talking – even to ourselves – and we need to stop talking, and start listening.

Proverbs 21: 23 “He who guards his mouth and his tongue,
Guards his soul from troubles.”

Proverbs 10: 19 “When there are many words, transgression is
unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”

Proverbs 17: 27-28 “He who restrains his words has knowledge,
And he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.”

*** Some of us have a loaded weapon for a mouth. First version of carry
and conceal... should issue a license for that deadly weapon...

Illus. - “It's better to be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and
remove all doubt.”

Illus. - W.A.I.T. Why Am I Talking? Remember, the power of life
and death are in the tongue - so we need to be careful with such a
powerful force...

Proverbs 18: 13 “He who gives an answer before he hears,
It is folly and shame to him.”

? Have you ever finished another persons (pause...) sentences? Do
you do that on a regular basis?

Illus. - Have you ever listened to a married couple tell a story together –
when one of the couple can't let the other one tell the story...?

5 Steps Of Listening:

1. Hear – Focused Listening
2. Acknowledge – Seek to understand
3. Clarify
4. Empathize
5. Respond

2. SUBMIT AND MEDITATE

?? Have you ever said something and then thought, “I should have given that some more thought before I said it.” And now, you can’t get the words back in your mouth...

Three types of people in the world:

People who think before they talk.

People who think while they talk.

People who think after they talk.

******* We need to stop before we speak, submit our heart to God, and meditate on what He is saying to us...! Hand your heart to the Father, and allow Him to pour His truth, His love, His Words into your heart...

Proverbs 23: 7 “For as he thinks within (in his heart) himself, so he is...”

Illus. - I want to become more and more, a person who thinks the thoughts of God - and so becomes more like Him...

Ex. - Marvin Martin - now 90 years young – soon be 91 – and he is such an amazing man of peace and wisdom... (June 25th)

Have you noticed as people get older - they either get better, or they get bitter... More like their heavenly Father... or more like the enemy of God...

Luke 9: 47 “But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side...”

Matthew 9: 4 “And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?”

Matthew 15: 19 “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.”

Hebrews 4: 12 “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Illus. - Medical science is now starting to discover this... examples of heart transplant patients.

Have you ever said, “Just a quick thought from the top of my mind...”

More often we should say, “From the bottom of my heart...” Because Jesus says: “Out of the abundance of our heart... our mouth speaks.”

*** When we are rescued by God’s Grace – from sin and separation from Him - He connects His heart to ours... (if you have not experienced this, you may still be in need of rescue...!)

So, with our heart connected to God’s heart - we then let our connected heart tell our mind – that is being renewed and transformed (Romans 12) what to say...!!

1. Stop and Listen
2. Submit and Meditate

3. SURRENDER AND PRAY

Isaiah 6: 1- 8 “In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I live among a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth *with it* and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah – in the midst of worship – has a powerful encounter with God... and the first thing God helps him realize in this encounter is that his heart is full of iniquity... and it’s pouring out of his mouth...

Isaiah is convicted about his mouth – his tongue...

He confesses that he can't control himself – he needs help!

The truth is – I need the same thing - every day! I need this kind of encounter with a holy, loving, righteous God... every day!

And, unless I am healed, set free from sin, and filled with God's Word and The Holy Spirit... I can't help anybody... I can't even be a decent husband... father... friend...

*** My story - I needed Freedom... this is why we have Freedom Ministry here at ECC. Explain...

I grew up in church... I led worship when I was only 12 years old... sang in a Christian group and traveled around the region...

But I wasn't truly saved... My heart wasn't connected to God's heart... my mind wasn't influenced by the Word of God or the Spirit of God... and the evidence that made it the most obvious, was my mouth...

I was sarcastic, angry, told lies, spoke words that should never be spoken...

For me the turning point happened just about my 17th birthday...

I finally began to experience a personal relationship with Jesus when I was a Junior in High School.

At that point, I began to truly give everything to God... I gave Him my heart, my mind, my mouth, my life... my marriage... my children... my future... my everything...

And, when I finally stopped, submitted, and surrendered... I was completely and fully saved... fully known... fully embraced... fully adopted by my Heavenly Father...

Now – I can listen... meditate... and pray... and God speaks to me... He even speaks through me...

?? What do you need to give God today? Have you really given Him everything? Or, are you like I was... wanting salvation without surrender...