



James: Faith that Works

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Be Careful What You Say “Taming the Tongue”

James 3:1-12

November 17, 2019

Dr. Mark Strauss

Theme: In James 3:1–12 the author addresses another area of practical Christian wisdom: being careful what we say. He first warns about the danger of becoming a teacher, since teachers talk a lot and their words have great potential for good or for evil. Like the bit in a horse’s mouth or the rudder on ship, the tiny tongue has great power. Words are like sparks that turn into a forest fire and wild animals that cannot be tamed. They are particularly destructive when used hypocritically, saying one thing and doing another. Let’s be careful to use words in ways that build others up rather than breaking them down!

Outline:

1. Warning to Teachers, v. 1

2. The Reason for the Warning: The Power of Words

- a. The importance of controlling the tongue, v. 2

- b. Illustrations of the tongue's power, vv. 3–4

- c. The destructive potential of the tongue, vv. 5-6

- d. The untamable tongue, vv. 7–8

- e. Hypocrisy and the tongue, v. 9

Takeaway: Speak only words that edify, building others up rather than breaking them down.

Next Cove:

Date: November 24, 2019

Title: Two Kinds of Wisdom (3:13-18)