

## **Taming Your Tongue!**

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### **Announcement of Sermon Title**

#### **"Taming Your Tongue!"**

"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*. 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."

**James 3:5-6 CSB**

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

**James 3:9-10 CSB**

"Wise words *satisfy like a good meal*; the right words bring satisfaction. The *tongue can bring death or life*; those who love to talk will reap the consequences."

**Proverbs 18:20-21 NLT**

"Summoning the crowd, He told them, "Listen and understand. It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, *but what comes out of the mouth – this defiles a person*."

**Matthew 15:10-11 CSB**

*Taming your tongue isn't about your ability to control what you say – Taming your tongue is about being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit!*

### **Three Things you need to know to Tame Your Tongue:**

#### **1. Be Aware of the Tongue's Power!**

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

**James 3:3-6 CSB**

2. Be Aware of the Tongue's **Potential** and **Poison!**

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

**James 3:7-8 CSB**

3. Be Aware of the Tongue's **Paradox!**

*"With the tongue, we **bless our God and Father**, and with it we **curse people who are made in God's likeness**. Blessing and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, these things should not be this way. Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers and sisters, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water."*

**James 3:9-12 CSB**

*What comes out of your **mouth** is what is in your **heart**.*

**Closing:**

**Practical Ways to Tame Your Tongue:**

1. **Submit** your heart, mind, and tongue to the Lord daily. Matthew 16:24-26
2. **Seek** the Holy Spirit to heighten the awareness of your words. John 14:26
3. **Surrender** your "right" to complain. Philippians 4:4-8
4. **Start** the process of forgiveness for any unloving words or attitudes. Matthew 6:14-15
5. **Speak** words that will encourage, comfort, edify, and inspire. Philippians 2:1-5

**Invitation to Discipleship**