

## 2 oz. Beast

### I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2 CM App.

B. Prayer: Lord, have James pastor us tonight. Practical. Spiritual.

### II. Slide3 Intro: 2 oz. Beast

A. James is still helping us to discover a *genuine faith* or a *Functioning Faith*.

1. He now adds a *more specific manifestation* of faith expressed through the self-control of **our speech**. *We make split-second decisions w/it all day long.*

B. Can you name **the muscle** in your body that receives more exercise & less control than any other? [The tongue weighs only 2oz. Is approx 4” long. It has 8 muscles to change its position]

1. It helps us to: *chew, taste, swallow, & articulate words.*

2. It also is used for: *deceit, destruction, it devours, it is sharp sword, it breaks bones* (Prov.25:15), *backbites, flatters, & poisons.*

a) So it also is known as, *The 2 oz. Beast* (Title)

b) It's this *beastly nature* that James address in this passage.

C. Slide4 Tongue Facts:

1. **Most dangerous:** big cats like tigers and lions have numerous, barb-like structures on their tongue that can peel your flesh off with just a few licks.

2. **Largest:** The largest tongue in the animal kingdom belongs to *the blue whale*, with an estimated weight of **over 2.7 tons**. [full grown elephant]

3. **Fastest:** Chameleons have 1 of the fastest tongues in the animal kingdom. 0 - 60 in 100th of a second. The chameleon's tongue moves at ballistic speeds, the acceleration reaches **50g**, 5x's more than an F-16.

D. **But is it our literal tongues** that are the real problem?

1. The tongue is neither **friend** nor **foe**. It's merely a **messenger** that delivers the dictates of a desperately sick heart. [90 Prov about tongue]
2. So when James uses **tongue**, think **heart**. **READ ALL**

### III. Slide5a **TEACHERS AND TONGUES (1,2)** [Outline taken from Charles Swindoll]

A. (1) Don't be too eager to teach the Scriptures, as teachers use their tongues often.

1. Slide5b They have more opportunities to misrepresent the Scriptures & thus incur a stricter judgment. *The tongue is powerful, for good or evil.*

B. So is James condemning teaching? **No**.

1. **First**, James is only **warning against** rushing into the profession w/o carefully weighing the cost & responsibility.

a) Slide5c The words teachers **sow**, will affect many lives.

b) Their tongue is *the tool of their trade*, and teachers must master this tool.

2. **Second**, James is not promoting **silence**, he's proposing **control**.

C. (2) **We all have a hard time controlling our tongues**. If you disagree with that statement then you are a **liar**, or at least **in disagreement with Scripture**.

D. *You spend the 1st 2 yrs teaching kids to talk, & the next 16 telling them to be quiet.*

1. When you're **young** you're prone to **whine**. When you're **old** you're prone to **criticism**. When we **fail**, we **blame**. When we **succeed**, we **boast**.  
*That's why we need this.*

E. Slide5d *I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.* Mt.12:36,37

1. **Now add** our **typed words**, our social media words. **Today** we use the **highest amount of idle words** in any generation throughout history.

2. Slide5e Technology has made our words: *instant, permanent, and global*.

3. James said, *no man can tame the tongue* and we add to that **today**, *no man can tame the thumbs*. #TameTheDigitalTongue [great challenge]

F. Quaker Proverb, *Of your **unspoken** words, you are the master; of your **spoken** words, the servant; of your **written** words, the slave.*

#### IV. Slide6a **SMALL BUT POWERFUL (3-5)**

A. The power of the tongue in **3 Illustrations**:

1. **A bit** - With a length of rope, or a few strips of leather & a small piece of metal in a horse's mouth, a rider can control the horse's whole body.

a) The **tongue** is a **bit**, a small, 2 ounce bit nestled in our mouths that controls the direction of our lives.

2. **A small rudder** - Ships have grown larger/heavier but still proportionately they still have their course determined by a comparatively small slab of metal, called a rudder.

a) The **rudder** of the human body is that small slab of muscle called the tongue.

3. **A little fire** - A tiny spark holds the power to destroy 1000's of acres of forest. [2017 Az. off duty border patrol agent fired his gun at a target full of **colored powder/gender reveal & Tannerite** Binary explosive/bullet, **on dry Slide6b grass** ... **what could go wrong?** The Sawmill Fire burnt 46,000 acres, \$8 mill in damages. 5yr probatn, 20 yrs pay \$500 month, **then** back to judge]

a) Such is the power of the tongue. **Held in check such power for great good. Out of control what havoc both can cause.** (2020 El Dorado fire, Yucaipa 22,000 acres)

B. So, have you ever seen: **a horse** running out of control. **A ship** out of control. **A fire** out of control. Someone's **mouth** out of control.

#### V. Slide7a **NECESSARY BUT DANGEROUS (6-8)**

A. (6) **A world of unrighteousness** - James means that *the whole world of evil can find its expression* through the tongue.

1. **ie.** Boastful, destructive anger, cutting bitterness, flattering, lust...**the tongue communicates them all.**

B. Slide7b (6b) It's set on fire by hell/*Gehenna* - that actual valley outside Jerusalem used as a garbage dump.

1. All the **filth** of the city accumulated there, just as the evil of our sinful hearts seems to accumulate on our tongues.

C. (7,8a) James changes image one more time. *Every beast has been tamed* (except cats!)

1. You see this truth over the years in watching: Gentle Ben, Lassie, or Flipper (Kookaburra bird) Doberman gang. Or Milo-Otis, Benji, Free Willy.

a) But there's **1 beast not even Joe Exotic/Tiger King** could tame...the tongue!

## VI. Slide8a HELPFUL BUT INCONSISTENT (9-12)

A. The tongue is a powerful, dangerous beast, but remember that we said only *sometimes*.

1. Sometimes it helps mend bones instead of breaking them.
2. Sometimes it builds up people instead of tearing them down.
3. Sometimes it brings life instead of death.

B. (9,10) In these verses James illustrates the *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* tongues tendency.

C. (11,12) Lastly, James shows how the nature of the human heart is like *nothing* in nature.

1. Unlike human kind, nature is consistent. Peach trees don't produce poisonous mushrooms. Only the human heart is capable of producing such inconsistencies.

D. Streams produce 1 kind of water. Trees produce 1 kind of fruit.

1. The speech of the believer should be consistent with his/her new life in Christ.

E. Open your mouth & say ahhh. - a doctor often looks behind the tongue.

1. We need to look all the way down to the heart.

F. Who is in control?

1. If your tongue is under God's control, you will take what you say seriously, & your whole body will be under His discipline.

- a) **Slide8b** Just as a **horse** needs a **rider** holding its reigns, & a **ship** needs a **pilot** at the rudder, so your **tongue** needs a **master**, & **God** is the only 1 who can do the job.
2. **Slide8c** Ps.141:3,4 Set a guard over my **mouth**, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my **lips**. Let not my **heart** be drawn to what is evil.
- G. **Slide9,10** Is.6:1-8 Watch the natural progression: When you **See God** – Then you **See your Sin** – Then you **See your Mission**. [7 steps of a believer]
1. **Focus on God (1)** - I saw the Lord.
  2. **Proclaim His Power & Glory (2-4)** - Holy, Holy, Holy.
    - a) When you worship focus on God's *holiness, sovereignty, & glory*.
  3. **Confess personal & corporate sin (5)** – Woe is me! [I am undone] For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips ... people of unclean lips.
    - a) His **lips** now **purified**, his **sin** was **taken away**, Isaiah was now prepared to **preach a pure message**.
    - b) *Where there's an altar there is a sacrifice, where there is a sacrifice there is forgiveness & cleansing.*
    - c) Has God touched your mouth? Are your lips clean? **Both**, clean from what we shouldn't say? *And used for what we should be saying?*
    - d) We all need to *ask God* to *cauterize our lips*.
  4. **Cleanse iniquity & sin (6,7)** – Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.
  5. **Listen to the Lord (8a)** – I heard the voice of the Lord.
  6. **Respond to His voice (8b)** – Here I am! Send me.
    - a) *"Why doesn't somebody do something? Then I realized I am somebody."*
  7. **Now talk to others (9)** – Go and say.
    - a) **Now** he's ready to *Go & Tell*. *Lips pure, sin gone, heart now prepared to share a pure message*. When you **See God**. Then you **See your Sin**. Then you **See your Mission**