

## The Worlds Deadliest Weapon

### I. Slide1 Intro: The Worlds Deadliest Weapon

- A. If you were to list some of the world's greatest dangers, you may include *terrorism, bad weather, global warming, international threats, liver/onions, diseases & so on.*
- B. Bombs, tanks, and weapons of mass destruction **all have nothing on the tongue.**
1. Buddha said, "**The tongue like a sharp knife, kills without drawing blood.**"
  2. **With** a simple movement of the tongue thousands die each day (it's not the Russian army to be feared **but** 1 man's tongue/Putin). **With** a simple phrase of the tongue families break apart. **With** a sharp tongue teenagers become suicidal.
  3. Often we speak before we have understanding. We often think our words cannot hurt anybody, reciting an untruth we grew up with, "**Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me**".
  4. Words are often misinterpreted or distorted.
    - a) Be careful of your words for once they are said, they **can be forgiven but never forgotten.**

### II. Slide2a PROTECT ME (1-6) READ

- A. To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. *1 Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from dread of the enemy. 2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the throng of evildoers, 3 who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, 4 shooting from ambush at the blameless, shooting at him suddenly and without fear. 5 They hold fast to their evil purpose; they talk of laying snares secretly, thinking, "Who can see them?" 6 They search out injustice, saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search." For the inward mind and heart of a man are deep.*
- B. (1) 1st note that: it **isn't** a prayer of David asking God to *preserve his life from his enemy, but from the fear of his enemy.* Actually *the dread of his enemy.*

1. **dread** - the Hebrew word used here, **פַּחַד** *pachad*, often describes a **debilitating fear**. A fear that was **paralyzing** (not sobering & healthy).
2. Deliver me from the **words** of my enemies.

C. (3) msg *Using their tongues as weapons, flinging poison words, poison-tipped arrow-words.*

1. **Slide2b Did you know** that tribes down in Columbia rub the tips of their blowgun darts on the skin of the **most toxic animal on the planet** the **golden poison dart frog**. They have enough poison on their **skin** to **kill 10 people in 3 minutes**. [on endangered species list, *is that a bad thing?*]
2. I wish we could acknowledge that fact that we as **humans** have the same amount of poison that we wear on our **thin-skinned-lives**, when we say, *I hate you. I want a divorce. I'm getting an abortion. I don't ever wanna talk with you again. You're a loser. You'll never amount to anything.*

D. **Slide3 James warns us of our tongues**, *That **muscle** in your body that receives **more exercise & less control** than any other. [aka, *The 2 oz. Beast*] 3:3-10 *If we put **bits** into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very **small rudder** wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a **small fire**! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue (it takes God!). It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.**

E. **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**.
    - a) **Yet is it our literal tongues that are the real problem?** [90 Prov about tongue]
    - b) Of course the tongue is neither **friend nor foe**. It's merely a **messenger** that delivers the dictates of a desperately sick heart.
    - c) So when James uses **tongue**, think **heart**. [a doctor says, *open your mouth & say ahhh*. Your doctor is often looking *behind the tongue*. We need to look all the way down to *the heart*]
- F. **Slide5a** *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. 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**.
    - a) **Slide5b** Quaker Proverb, *Of your **unspoken** words, you are the **master**; of your **spoken** words, the **servant**; of your **written** words, the **slave**.*
- G. **Slide6a** James gave the power of the tongue in **3 Illustrations**:
1. **A bit** - w/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.

a) Such is the power of the tongue. *Held in check*, such power for great good. *Out of control*, what havoc both can cause.

b) We have all seen: a **horse** running out of control. A **ship** out of control. A **fire** out of control. Someone's *mouth* out of control.

H. The tongue is a powerful dangerous beast, **but 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.**

I. **Who is in control?** 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.

1. **Slide6b 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.**

J. (3-6) **Their weapons** are their **tongues** (3). **Their methods** is an **ambush** (4). **Their thoughts** are reprehensible, and runs *as deep as a well* (5,6).

1. (6) The psalm pauses here for the pointed comment on human nature.

2. **They snipe from concealment, their cause is shameful, and their tactics indefensible.**

K. **Most of our problems are not on the *outside* but on the *inside*.**

1. Remember when the disciples were on the boat in the middle of Galilee on a stormy night, Jesus came to them and rebuke them for their *unbelief*.

2. The problem **wasn't** the storm on the **outside**, **it was** the storm on the **inside**. Likewise, **your problem today might not be** the circumstances around you **or** the people against you. It may be **the fear that's inside of you**. (Wiersbe)

### III. Slide7 **PUNISH THEM (7,8) READ**

- A. *7 But God shoots his arrow at them; they are wounded suddenly. 8 They are brought to ruin, with their own tongues turned against them; all who see them will wag their heads.*
- B. (7) **But God** - it all changes here. **And when it changes, it is *suitable, swift & sudden* judgment.** [confident God will do this, **but** hasn't happened yet]
1. **Suddenly** - it is all over in a verse and a half (as opposed to the last 6 vs).
- C. **But God shoots His arrows at them** - The psalmist upholds the idea of *lex talionis* the law of retaliation (the principle of *an eye for an eye*) where the wicked receive exactly what they had planned against others.

### IV. Slide8a **PRAISE GOD (9,10) READ**

- A. *9 Then all mankind fears; they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done. 10 Let the righteous one rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!*
- B. (10) **Let the righteous one rejoice in the Lord** - by punishing the wicked, God upholds His justice. The **righteous rejoice** because God's justice gives them assurance that they can take refuge in Him!
- C. **Slide8b** David, instead of **fear** he had **faith**; instead of **fear** he had **joy**; **and** instead of **fear** he **brought glory to God**.
- D. From now on, **I will shut up**. From now on, **I won't say everything I think**. From now on, **I will let myself be quiet**.
1. Did you know you will cut your enemies in 1/2 ... **by shutting up?**  
Did you know If we shut our mouths the devil **wouldn't have so much to**

*work with?*

E. Keywords: tongue, fear, faith, glory, God, heart, joy, judgment, injustice.