

HANDOUT JAMES 3 1-12 The World's Smallest But Largest Troublemaker!

2 Characteristics of the Mature Christian: Chapter 1) They are Patient in Trouble, & Chapter 2) They Practice the Truth. In Chapter 3 James speaks to them about Taming the Tongue: **Read James 3:1-12**

- James 1:26 The believer who does not bridle his tongue is not truly religious.
- James 2:12. says, We must speak and act as though we were already facing Christ and judgment.
- With the Tongue, Man can Praise God, Pray, Preach the Word, and lead the Lost to Christ. But that Same Tongue, can Tell Lies, Ruin a Person's Reputation & Break a Person's Heart.

James gives us 6 Pictures of the Tongue: the Bit, the Rudder, Fire, a Poisonous Animal, a Fountain, and a Fig Tree. These 6 Pictures Reveal the 3 Powers of the Tongue...**To Direct...To Destroy...And To Delight!**

Versus 1-4 The Power to Direct...The Bit and the Rudder: A Person who can Discipline his Tongue gives Evidence that he Can Control his Whole Body. **He Proves that he is a Mature or Perfect Person.**

- In Selecting the Bit and the Rudder, James presented 2 Items that are small of themselves...Yet exercise, great power, just like the Tongue.
- Just as a small Bit enabled the rider to control the horse, a small rudder enables the pilot to steer the ship. The tongue has the power to accomplish Great Things.
- **Both a Bit & Rudder Must Overcome Contrary Forces!** The Bit must Overcome the Wild Nature of the Horse. The Rudder must fight the winds and currents that would drive the Ship Off its Course.
- **Likewise>>The human Tongue also Must Overcome the Contrary Forces Of Our Old Nature that Wants to Control Us and Make Us Sin!**

Sin on the Inside and Pressures on the Outside Seek to Get Control of the Tongue! Both a Bit and the Rudder Must Be Under the Control. The expert horsemen keeps the mighty power of his steed under control, and the experienced pilot steers the ship through the Storm. **Likewise...We Must Choose to Allow Jesus to Control Our Tongue!**

- In Proverbs 18 Solomon Warned that Death and Life are in the Power of the Tongue.
- Ps 141 David prayed *Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil.* Matt 12, Out of the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth Speaks.
- **KEY: When Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Heart, Then He Is the Lord of The Lips!**

Our words affect others lives! Never underestimate the Power of the Words You Speak or Do Not Speak!

- In 1855, Edward Kimball went into a Boston shoe store and led Dwight L Moody to Christ. One of history's Greatest Evangelist, Whose Ministry Still Continues Today.
- **The Tongue is like a Bit and a Rudder: it has the Power to Direct. How important it is that Our Tongues Direct People in the Right Way.**

VS 5-8 Tell Us Our Tongues Have the Power to Destroy: The Fire and the Animal

- **Point: Our Words Can Start Fires! Read Prov 26: 20-22; Psalm 39:1-3; Prov 17: 27-28**

Fire Also Defiles. A fire can cause smoke damage throughout the entire house, making the family have to move out. Like Smoke Damage Our Words Can Defile as Well!

- **Words are Like Feathers in the Wind...Once Out there Is No Getting them Back!**

As Fire spreads, it destroys; and the words we speak, have the power to destroy. Our words can Break Hearts and Ruin Reputations! They can also destroy souls by sending them into eternity without Christ!

- **Not only is the Tongue like a Fire, it is also like a dangerous animal.** Some Animals are Poisonous and some Tongues Spread Poison. The deceptive thing about Poison is that it works secretly and slowly, and then Kills. A Poisonous Tongue can hurt people, a family, even a Church. Jesus reminds us that animals can be tamed. **When you Tame an Animal, You Get a Worker Instead of a Destroyer! When You Control Fire, You Generate Power!**

Point: The Tongue Cannot Be Tamed by Man...But it Can Be Tamed by God. The important thing, of course, is the heart! For it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks **Matthew 12:35**

Versus 9 to 12 Speak of the Power to Delight: the Fountain and the Tree: The Fountain provides the cool water that man needs to stay Alive. A Freshwater Fountain is a Great Blessing to Everyone. God's Word says the words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the Wellspring of Wisdom. **Pr 10, 13 & 18**

Water is life-giving and our words can give life, But If water is not Controlled it brings Destruction!

Water also Cleanses. There was a laver in the Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple, provided for the Cleansing of the Priest's Hands and Feet. **Read John 15 and Eph. 5**

The Tongue is also Delightful because it is "like" a Tree. In Bible lands, trees are important to the economy: they helped to hold down the soil, they provide beauty and Shade; and they bore fruit. Our Words can help to Shelter and Encourage a Weary Traveler, can help Defeat a Hungry Soul.

- Prov. 10:21 "The Lips of the Righteous Nourish Many."
- John 6:63 The Words that I have Spoken to you, they are Full of the Spirit, and Life
- As we share the word with others, we feed them and encourage them along the way

The Most Important Thing about a Tree is the Root System. If the Roots do not go down Deep, the Tree will not grow in a healthy manner. **KEY:** If we are Rooted to the Things of the Lord, Then Our Words Will be the Fruit of Our Fellowship with Him, and we will be like that Blessed.

- Mark 1:35 *Very early in the Morning, While it was Still Dark, Jesus Got Up, Left the House and Went Off to a Solitary Place, Where He Prayed.*

Point: If you and I are going to have Tongues that Delight, we must meet with the Lord each Day and learn from him! **We Must Get Our Spiritual Roots Deep into His Word!** We Must Pray and Meditate and Permit the Spirit of God to Fill Our Hearts with God's Love and Truth!

James gives a warning: A fountain cannot give 2 kinds of water and a Tree cannot bear 2 kinds of Fruit.

- We Expect the Fountain to Flow with Sweet water at All Times, and We Expect a Fig Tree to Bear Figs and the Olive tree to bear Olives. **Nature Reproduces After Its Kind!**

KEY If the Tongue is Inconsistent, there's Something Radically Wrong with the Heart!

The Tongue that Blesses God the Father, and then Turns Around and Curses, Men made in God's Image, is in Desperate Spiritual Need! **The Problem, of Course, is NOT the Tongue...It Is the Heart!**

Matt 15:18 The Things that Come Out of a Person's Mouth Come from the Heart, and These Defile Them."

- As We Fill Our Hearts with God's Word and Yield to the Holy Spirit, He can Use Us to Bring Delight to Others, and We will be As Refreshing Fountains and trees.

FACT: When You Talk to God About People, Then You Will Talk to People about God. It is Our Private Praying for People that Helps Us in Our Public Meeting with People.

Yes, the smallest but largest troublemaker in all the world is the Tongue. But it does Not have to be a Troublemaker!

- God Can Use Our Tongues to Direct Others Into the Way of Life, and to Delight Them in the Trials of Life. YOU SEE>>>The Tongue is a Little Member, But it Has Great Power.

Point: Give God Your Tongue and Heart Each Day and He Will Use You to Be a Blessing to Others!