



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Series: *JAMES: “Faith at Work”*

Message: *“Watch your Words”*

DATE: 6/26/22

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

James 3:1-12, 1 Corinthians 12:28, **Matthew 12:34-35,36-37**, Romans 3:15, 2 Peter 2:14, Ephesians 4:11-12, 5:18, Jude 14-15, Psalm 39:1, Psalm 68:19, 35

JAMES 3:1-12

I. (v1-2) TEACHERS TONGUE

¹“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.”

- **“not many should”**- can better be translated as “not many of you are to teach as there is great danger in speaking before others as the tongue can guide to the Lord or away to destruction
- **(1 Corinthians 12:28) “Greater Strictness”**- The gift of teaching was very high on the list of gifts bestowed on the church and it comes with great care and warning
 - *Those who have the gift should teach as it edifies the body*
 - *Those who have the gift will be held to a higher standard as teachers handle the word of God to man (reverence is needed)*
- **“able also to bridle his whole body”**- The tongue is the hardest to tame
 - *The Tongue reflects the heart of man at all times, revealing the sinful state of man*
 - *The person that can control their tongue shows the greatest maturity and control over evil impulses*
 - **(Romans 8:6) “Let the Spirit Control your Mind”**



II. (v3-6) INTENTION & INFLUENCE

³If we put **bits into the mouths of horses** so that they obey us, **we guide their whole bodies as well.** ⁴Look 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.** ⁵So 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! ⁶And 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.**

- **Illustrations of controlling the Tongue:**

- (v3) **Horses-** the tongue is equated to a bit in the horse's mouth that turns the whole body

- The mouth reveals the heart, and the actions follow what we speak
- Others follow what we speak
- The mouth causes the whole life to follow (speaking things into existence)

- (v4) **Ships-** the rudder works just like the bit in the mouth of the Horse, control the rudder and control the whole vessel in the direction you want it to go.

- (5b-6) **A Fire-** The evil tongue aligns with the evil corrupt heart. But James makes it very clear that the evil tongue does great damage to others within the body

- **(Matthew 12:36)** *God will judge harshly for every word that we speak*
 - The damage is instant as a wildfire started with a small little match
 - The damage will be fast
 - The damage will be long lasting
 - You cannot undo the words that are said as they will not be forgotten
 - The tongue always affects others (family, friends, the lost around you/witness)



- “On fire by Hell,” many times We fight the devil’s battles against the kingdom of God
- We can choose to represent truth and fight for the Kingdom of God

III. (v7-8) TAME THE TONGUE

⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but **no human being can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

- **“No human can tame the tongue”- Only God can tame your tongue**
 - o Control of the tongue requires the Holy Spirit’s active presence
 - **(Ephesians 5:18)- “be filled with the Holy Spirit”**
 - **pleroo**= to fulfill, complete or carry out. To be fulfilled by the Holy Spirit
 - o The tongue is **“restless” “evil”-**
 - **Restless-** *unsettled, unstable, disorderly*
 - **Evil-** *evil means bad in character, evil for evil reveals the depraved heart*
 - o The tongue is **“full of deadly poison”-**
 - *Full of corrosion*
 - *Poison that is deadly to the one that receives the words*
 - **(Psalm 58:1-6)- illustration of the disaster of those around**

IV. (v9-12) THE TELL-TALE (nautical term of a small flag that tells where the wind is blowing)

⁹“With it (tongue) 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. ¹¹**Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and saltwater?**

¹²**Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.”**



- *The Heart and the mouth should be in sync*
- *Cursing and true worship cannot come from the same source*
 - The **Holy Spirit will not sanction worship** if the heart is in a place of disarray
- *James is also presenting the real possibility that the heart may not be truly transformed if the words do not reflect conviction*
 - The words that come from our **mouths reveal the condition of our souls**
- ***Fruit** comes from a root and then through the trunk which supports the fruit*
 - The **kind** of tree always aligns with the same kind of fruit
- *James in essence is using the works as words to reveal the fruit of the heart condition **regenerate or unregenerate***

OUTLINE:

Central Theme: We must examine our words as they are a weapon for good or evil.

- I. (v1-2) TEACHERS TONGUE
- II. (v3-6) INTENTION & INFLUENCE
- III. (v7-8) TAME THE TONGUE
- IV. (v9-12) THE TELL-TALE

APPLICATION:

- I. **Application Questions (v1-2): Has God called you to teach the Word?**
 - If God has called you to teach His word, you must teach with reverence and with care as He will hold teachers to a higher standard on judgment day...
Have you obeyed His voice to teach with care?
 - **Will you be judged for your carelessness with the Word of God?**
(Even in times of casual counsel, we will all be held accountable for how we represented His truths)
- II. **Application Questions (v3-6): Is my Mouth under the Control of the Spirit?**



- Do my words reveal that **I am under the control of the Holy Spirit** or under the control of the enemy?
- **What kingdom does my words reveal that I am battling?** (Heaven or my own kingdom)
- **Who have I hurt** in the family of God with my careless words?
- **When people hear me talk** do they know I love the Lord and the family of God?

III. Application Questions (v7-8): Have I committed my mouth to the control of the Holy Spirit?

- **Have I been trying to control my words on my own** and have been failing to succeed?

IV. Application Questions (v9-12): Does my Heart reveal the treasure?

- **Do my words reveal the heart of a true follower of Christ** or am I deceived?
 - **(Matthew 12:37)**- “Words will either acquit you or condemn you”
 - **(Matthew 12:34-35)** “From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”