

James 3:1-18 – The Tongue

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For 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. 3 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,[a] and set on fire by hell.[b] 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 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,[c] these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Quotes

“Your tongue can get you in trouble” - Joe Williams on The Tongue

“The way we speak determines how others speak of us” -Paul E. Koptak on The Tongue

“We would almost always be better of if we said less.” -Chuck Smith on a Multitude of Words

Notes from the message:

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Some Proverbs that speak about the tongue:

WAYS THE TONGUE CAN BE USED: Proverbs 18:21; 15:4; 15:2; 14:13; 13:3; 12:18; 10:11

What are some of the results when you use your tongue foolishly?

What are some of the results when you use your tongue wisely?

How are you using your tongue?

Some more Proverbs that speak about the tongue:

BLESSINGS OF A WISE TONGUE: Proverbs 10:20-21; 12:6; 15:7; 16:23-24; 23:5-6; 21:23; 20:15

How have you been blessed by someone using their tongue wisely?

How can you bless others by using your tongue?

How have you seen false teachers cause damage in people's lives?

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Proverbs that speak about the tongue being used foolishly:

SPEAKING QUICKLY: Proverbs 18:13; 29:20; 17:28; 11:12; 10:19

QUARRELING AND GOSSIP: Proverbs 20:3; 20:19; 26:20; 12:14; 18:6-8

LYING: Proverbs 12:22; 12:19; 19:5; 19:9; 21:6; 21:28; 24:26; 17:20; 19:1

What stands out to you in these scriptures?

In what areas do you struggle with your own tongue?

Why do you think so many people speak foolishly?

Why do you think it is important to control your tongue?

How can you have wisdom when speaking?
