

Taming the Tongue

James 3:1-12

Doug Bischoff

Jas 3:1-12 Not many should become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment, (2) for we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a mature man who is also able to control his whole body. (3) Now when we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we also guide the whole animal. (4) And consider ships: Though very large and driven by fierce winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. (5) So too, though the tongue is a small part *of the body*, it boasts great things. Consider how large a forest a small fire ignites. (6) And the tongue is a fire. The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among the parts of our *bodies*. It pollutes the whole body, sets the course of life on fire, and is set on fire by hell. (7) Every sea creature, reptile, bird, or animal is tamed and has been tamed by man, (8) but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (9) We praise our Lord and Father with it, and we curse men who are made in God's likeness with it. (10) Praising and cursing come out of the same mouth. My brothers, these things should not be this way. (11) Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening? (12) Can a fig tree produce olives, my brothers, or a grapevine *produce* figs? Neither can a saltwater spring yield fresh water.

1) Nobody's perfect.

2) The tongue (our words) has the ability to do great harm (and great good!). Genesis 1:3, Mark 9:25, John 11:43, Ephesians 4:29

Gen 1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Mar 9:25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly coming together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "*You mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!*"

Joh 11:43 After He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "*Lazarus, come out!*"

Eph 4:29 No foul language is to come from your mouth, but only what is good for building up someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear.

3) The words of our mouth betrays the truth of our heart.

Proverbs 17:20, Psalm 51:10, 19:14

Pro 17:20 **One with a twisted mind will not succeed, and one with deceitful speech will fall into ruin.**

Psa 51:10 **God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Psa 19:14 **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.**

Join us on Wednesday, August 5th and August 12th at High Point as **we meet in the ground floor auditorium of the Wells Fargo Plaza, 1000 Louisiana**. Doors open at 11:30 if you wish to bring your lunch in and eat. Our speaker begins promptly at 12:10 and ends promptly at 12:40. **NO food or beverage service but you may bring your lunch & drink.**

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Upcoming High Point Speakers:

David Self – 8/5 & 8/12