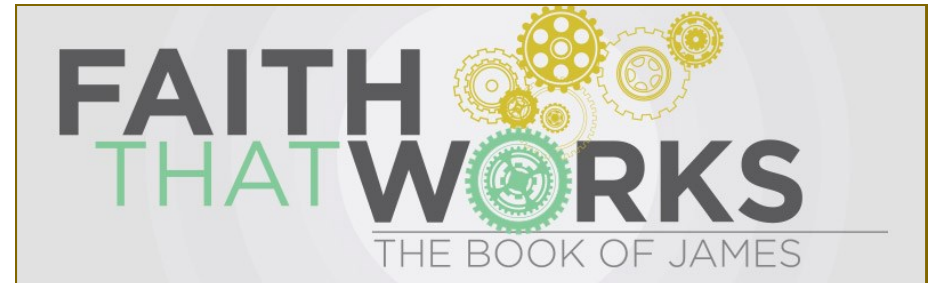


Reflection Questions: In my speech do I gossip, lie, criticize, and discourage? Do I spread bitterness and dissension? How will I bless and encourage others with my tongue this week? How does *James 3:1-12* motivate me to be more careful about how I speak? Are there people I need to apologize to because of my untamed speech?

How can I pray for others and our church this week?



#16 The Tongue is a Fire (3:1-12)

Sermon
Notes

June 16, 2019

Quotes to Ponder

The tongue is not the problem. The tongue simply the messenger that delivers the mail composed by the heart. The tongue is the tattle-tail of the heart.

Stephen Davey

A person who is not right with God and walking daily in His presence cannot consistently speak pure and helpful words. One who is double and inconsistent with regard to the things of God in his heart will be double and inconsistent in his speech.

Douglas Moo

Speak when you are angry and you'll make the best speech you'll ever regret.

Ray Pritchard

If we use our tongues in a disciplined way to praise God, not with speech only but with the mind that goes behind it, God will bless our words and remember them and give us the ability to be a blessing to other people.

James Montgomery Boice

Be hateful with your tongue, and you will be hateful with other aspects of your behavior. If you do not discipline and purify your speech, you will not discipline or purify the rest of your life.

George M. Stulac

Misuse of the tongue is perhaps the easiest way to sin.

John MacArthur

James does not say "no one can tame the tongue," but "no man," so that, when it is tamed, we admit that it was done by the mercy of God, the assistance of God, the grace of God.

Augustine

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How does *James 3:1-12* connect with what James has said previously?

3. Why does James single out the teacher in the opening of his teaching on the tongue (*James 3:1*)?

What reasons does James give for us to be hesitant about becoming a teacher?

4. Read *James 3:2* and *8*. Should this cause us to not even try to tame the tongue? Explain.

5. What is James' point in *verses 3-4*?

6. Why does James say *the tongue is a fire* (*James 3:5b-6*)?

7. Who is the *no one* in *James 3:8*?

What does this then imply?

8. Read *Genesis 1:26* and *James 3:9-10*. What truth expressed here should deter us from speaking any kind of ill of others?

9. How does James explain the outrageousness of the inconsistencies of the tongue in *James 3:9-12*?

10. What is James telling us in *James 3:11-12*?

11. How do we *bless our Lord and Father* (*James 3:9*) with our mouths? Is this just giving praise to God or is there more to it? Explain.

12. Since the tongue cannot be tamed, what is Paul's advice on controlling the tongue in *Ephesians 4:29*, *Colossians 4:6*, and *Titus 3:2*?

13. Why do anger, impatience, slander, and sarcasm come out of our mouths so frequently?

14. What is the only solution to controlling our tongue?

15. What do *Psalms 141:3* and *Proverbs 21:23* teach us about taming our tongues?

16. Read *Romans 7:21-23*. Combined with James' teaching, how might we use these teachings into a practical application for our life?