

Study 4 Controlling the Tongue... James 3:1—12

Review Relationship of Jesus Sermon on the Mt and James

Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

Matt 7:15—20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Review Week one

Evil...The process was that Our own Desires=Birth to Sin=Full grown=Death
Trials...The process was that Trials = Perseverance = Maturity
And we, out of all God's creation, became His

PRIZED POSSESSION

Review Week two

Listening and Doing...

Christian Ethics...First, real religion controls the tongue.

Salvation and Obedience...Second, real religion hears and does Gods Word
Illustration the mirror and the Engrafted Word...

Third, Real religion receives Gods Word.

A Warning against Prejudic

Review Week 3

Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

The obedience of Abraham in offering up his son Isaac was faith and works working together

The experience of Rahab was faith and works working together

Cultivating your faith and works by rolled up sleeves of your Christian life and learning about the tongue and the need to control the tongue.



James 3:1—12

Controlling the Tongue... The Tongue needs to be Controlled

James 3:1—2 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

The first trait of the human tongue is that it is condemning.

For we who teach will be judged more strictly

I want you to picture a teacher in your mind. What does that picture look like? My picture looks like Mrs. Drews 4th 5th 6th grade teacher. She immediately comes to mind as the prototype of what a teacher is supposed to be. James says that because we teach with our tongues, we're responsible for those lessons being taught.

The second trait of the human tongue is that it is controlling

James 3:3—6 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

What a vivid, word picture is used to illustrate the power of the tongue. A 5 lb. bit and bridle controlling a 1500 lb. animal, a small piece of wood controlling a large ship driven by the huge winds of nature and a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.



The Tongue has the Power to Destroy...The average weight of the human tongue is less than 3 ounces. But what damage can do?
James 3:6 It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

3. The third trait of the human tongue is that it is corrupting

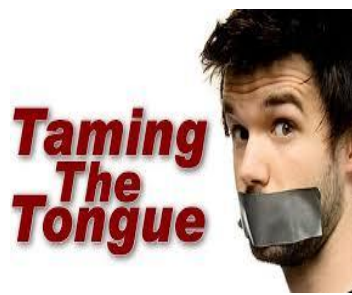
James 3:7—8 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Every type or species of animals have been subdued or tamed by man.

Do you remember Flipper?



<http://youtu.be/azEOeTX1LqM>

The famous porpoise starred in one of the most popular television series of the 1960's. He was fictional, but Tuffy was real. Tuffy served as a member of the United States Navy's program Sealab II, off the coast of San Diego during the summer of 1966. He carried the mail between the surface and the crew, 205 feet below. He transported tools and even served as a lifeguard when one of the crew pretended to be lost. Humankind has tamed the apparently untamable creatures of the sea. Yet, people never have learned to subdue their own tongues.



BE CAREFUL OF STONES THAT YOU THROW
Recorded by Hank Williams, Sr. Written by Bonnie Dodd

CHORUS

A tongue can accuse and carry bad news
The seeds of distrust, it will sow
But unless you've made no mistakes in your life
Be careful of stones that you throw.

The next word picture that James uses is poison. James uses an interesting word for poison because it was used to describe both the venom produced by snakes and scorpions but it was also used to describe rust.

Have you ever spent time around people who use foul language a lot? It's amazing how that can seep into your head. What happens if you screw a rusty nut onto a new bolt? The corruption of rust spreads to the bolt. Then both of them are corrupt. And when the rust sets in, you can't tell the two of them apart. That's one way that the tongue can be corrupting.



TV Bleeps

The forth trait of the human tongue is that it is compromising

James 3:9—10 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

The first set that James uses here is blessing and cursing. To say that these words are exact opposites is an understatement. The word bless simply means to cause to prosper or to bring happiness and as Christians shouldn't our words build others up and bring help to them. The word curse means to bring evil upon and when we use our words to hurt we are really doing nothing but bringing evil on others.



Do you remember the saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me?”



Big Mouth

A lady asked the man working in the grocery store produce department if she could buy a half a head of lettuce. He looked at her like she was crazy. “Half a head—God grows them as whole heads. That’s how we sell them.” But she insisted, so he went to ask the manager. When he got to where the manager was, he said, “You won’t believe what happened. Back in produce there is this crazy old battleaxe who wants to buy half a head of lettuce.” The manager flushed and pointed to the lady who had apparently followed him and was standing behind him. Without missing a beat, the produce man said, “And this nice lady wants to know if she can have the other half.”

The second set of words that James uses are the spring of water and the fig tree.

James 3:11—12 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can’t draw fresh water from a salty spring.

These two images are really saying the same essential message that we can only produce one type of word from our lives. Just as a spring will produce one kind of water or a tree one kind of fruit, so our tongues will produce one kind of effect. The truth is that we make the choice of what kind of impact our words will have on those around us.

A little girl sat with her **ARMS WRAPPED** around her father’s neck. But her mother observed that over her father’s shoulder she was sticking out her tongue at her little brother. The mother responded by saying, "Take your arms from around your father’s neck. You cannot love your father and at the same time stick your tongue out to his son.

Be careful
with your words.
Once
they are said,
they can **only**
be forgiven,
NOT Forgotten
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Sometimes
silence is the
best way to let
someone know
they did wrong.

Before you speak, THINK.
T - is it TRUE?
H - is it HELPFUL?
I - is it INSPIRING?
N - is it NECESSARY?
K - is it KIND?

Conclusion and prayer for this week...Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Questions and Comments