

James 3:3-12

³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

living the dream



5 KEYS TO WINNING THE BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE

1. Prepare your mind 1 Peter 1:13-15
2. Guard your heart Proverbs 4:23
3. Fix your eyes 2 Corinthians 4:18
4. Direct your feet Ephesians 6:15
- 5. Tame your tongue James 3:3-12**

Tame Your Tongue - James 3:3-12

The tongue:

Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but _____ what is helpful for _____ according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Lesson#1 The tongue has the power to _____

v.3-4

Prov 25:11 A word fitly spoken is...

Lesson#2 The tongue has the power of _____

v.5-6

Prov 18:21 The tongue has the power of _____ and _____

Prov 21:23 He who guards his tongue and mouth keeps himself from _____

Lesson#3 Get the _____ right and the _____ will follow.

v.7-8

Luke 6:45 ...out of the abundance of the _____ the _____

v.9-12

If what comes out of my mouth isn't consistent with a godly life, I need to...

v.8 No man can _____ the tongue. BUT _____ CAN

Isaiah 6:5-8

1. _____

2. _____

1. Can you think of a time when someone said something to you that really made a positive difference in your life? Also, how about something that really hurt?
2. Read James 3:1-12. What speaks to you the most in this passage? How do you think what comes out of our mouths determines the course of our life. Can you give an example?
3. James 3:6 says, "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."
James is pretty blunt when he says that the source of much of what comes out of our mouth is from hell itself. Why is he so blunt, and how does this make you think about being careful about what we say?

How does Proverb 18:21 fit in with what James says?

4. Read Luke 6:45. How is what comes out of my mouth related to what is in my heart?
Think also about times when you have wanted to say something, but didn't because of what the consequences might be if you did say it. What does this say about where our heart is at?
5. James 3:8 says that no one can tame the tongue. Why can't we?
Have we really tamed the tongue if we really want to say something nasty but just don't say it?
6. Read Isaiah 6:1-8. Isaiah had a vision of God on His throne. How did seeing the holiness of God affect the way he saw his own life? Imagine that was you. What do you think of Isaiah's response in verse 5?
What did God do about it? What do we need to do, to deal with our own sin of what comes out of our mouth?

7. Isaiah's response in verse 8 was to become a messenger for God. If we are messengers of God, what does that say about everything that comes out of our mouths?