

Talking Faith

James 3:1-12

**Sticks and stone can
break my bones, but ...**

The Tongue

- Is of great concern to God
- Best device to measure the depth of our commitment to faith.

Matthew 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

The Tongue



I. The Nature Of The Tongue

A. The tongue is defining (3:1-2)

James 3:1-2

1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

Offend – To trip or to fall

Perfect – Mature and complete

Bridle – Horsemanship of an expert horseman

James 1:19

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

B. The tongue is directing (3:3-5)

James 3:3-5

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

B. The tongue is directing (3:3-5)

1. Horse's bit and rudder of a ship control direction
2. Our words force our bodies to back up what we say



I. The Nature Of The Tongue

C. The tongue is destructive (3:5-6)

James 3:5-6

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.



I. The Nature Of The Tongue

C. The tongue is destructive (3:5-6)

1. Gossip and slander

Proverbs 26:20-22

20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

C. The tongue is destructive (3:5-6) - continued

2. Lying and exaggeration

Exodus 20:16

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Exodus 23:1

Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

It is prevalent

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

Our culture has shifted to the ethics of expediency and self-advancement, so falsehood is not only tolerated but even encouraged in many cases.

Joseph Stowell – *The Weight of Words*

Truth aligns us with God

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

C. The tongue is destructive (3:5-6) - continued

3. Criticism and murmuring

- a. Criticism - unjustly passing negative judgment on someone to tear them down instead of build them up.**
- b. Murmuring - criticizing someone behind their back to others with the intent of gathering support to initiate a coup.**

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

D. The tongue is deadly (3:7-8)

James 3:7-8

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

D. The tongue is deadly (3:7-8)

Romans 3:13

Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:



Two Step Viper

I. The Nature Of The Tongue

E. The tongue is disloyal (3:9-12)

James 3:9-12

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

**I try to watch the words
I speak and keep them
soft and sweet, for I do
not know from day to
day which ones I'll
have to eat.**

II. The Taming Of The Tongue

Proverbs 13:3

**He that keepeth his
mouth keepeth his life:
but he that openeth
wide his lips shall have
destruction.**

II. The Taming Of The Tongue

A. Respect the Tongue

Never forget what the tongue is capable of doing

If your mind should ever go blank, don't forget to turn off the sound.

II. The Taming Of The Tongue

B. Measure your words

T-H-I-N-K before you speak

1. T – Is it True

Ephesians 4:25

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

2. H – Is it HELPFUL

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

II. The Taming Of The Tongue

B. Measure your words

T-H-I-N-K before you speak - continued

3. I – Is it INSPIRING

Ephesians 4:26

**Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon
your wrath:**

**If you speak when angry you'll make the greatest
speech you'll ever regret**

II. The Taming Of The Tongue

B. Measure your words

T-H-I-N-K before you speak – continued

4. N – It is NECESSARY

Ephesians 4:31

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

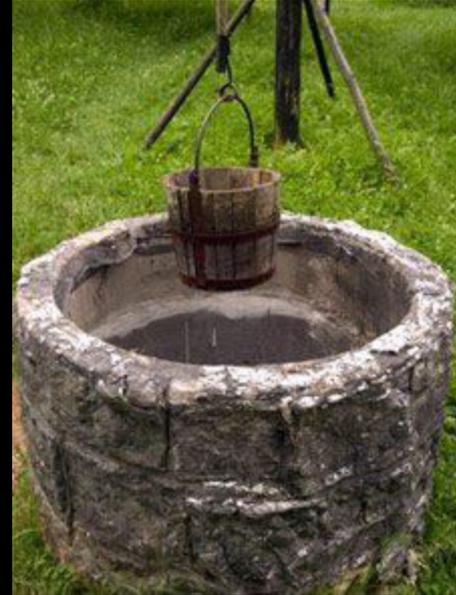
5. K – Is it KIND

Ephesians 4:32

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

II. The Taming Of The Tongue

C. Diffuse your tongue



1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

