



“Taming the Tongue”

James 3:1-12

Week of June 14, 2020

I. The Power of the Tongue

What is the warning given in James 3:1-2? What is this warning based on?

Put James 3:2 into your own words.

What does James mean when he uses the word “tongue”?

What is the point that James is making with the three illustrations that he gives in James 3:3-5?

What does James mean in James 3:5 when he says the tongue “makes great boasts”?

Why do you think the tongue is so powerful?

How can the tongue be used for good and for evil?

II. The Pain Inflicted by the Untamed Tongue

An *untamed tongue* is words and speech that are not controlled by God. How does James describe an untamed tongue in James 3:6?

In what way is the tongue “a world of evil”?

How would you define the word “corrupt”? How does the tongue corrupt the whole body?

How does what Jesus says in Matthew 5:11 fit into what James is saying?

What are examples in life today of how words can inflame a situation?

What does it mean that the tongue is “set on fire by hell”?

Why does James compare the animals mentioned in James 3:7 with the tongue in James 3:8?

What does it mean that the tongue is “a restless evil, full of deadly poison”?

What is the example of this restlessness and evil and deadly poison that James mentions in James 3:9-10?

What is significant in James 3:9 about cursing humans that have been made in God’s likeness?

III. Priority of the Tamed Tongue

Why is it important to have a surrendered life to God when we consider the taming of our tongue? Note Romans 12:1, Galatians 2:20

How does Psalm 141:3 address the taming of our tongue?

What does 1 Peter 3:10 and Ephesians 4:29 tell us about our speech?

When do we have the hardest time controlling our tongue?

Radio host Bernard Meltzer has said, “Before you speak, ask yourself if what you are going to say is true, is it kind, is it necessary, is it helpful.” What does the Christian man or woman need to add to this list?