

Power of the



James 3:1-12

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¹ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. ³ Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

James 3:1-12

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:1-12

⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus, no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

A Warning about TEACHING

¹ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers,

A. The Command:



John 1:38 Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”

A Warning about TEACHING

¹ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

B. The Cause:



A Warning about TEACHING

James 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless.



A Warning about TEACHING

James 2:12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

James 4:11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

James 5:12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and *your* “No,” “No,” lest you fall into judgment.

A Warning about TEACHING

² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

C. The Condition:

Matthew 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.



The Power of the TONGUE

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

A. To Direct:

1. *"Bits" to a horse*

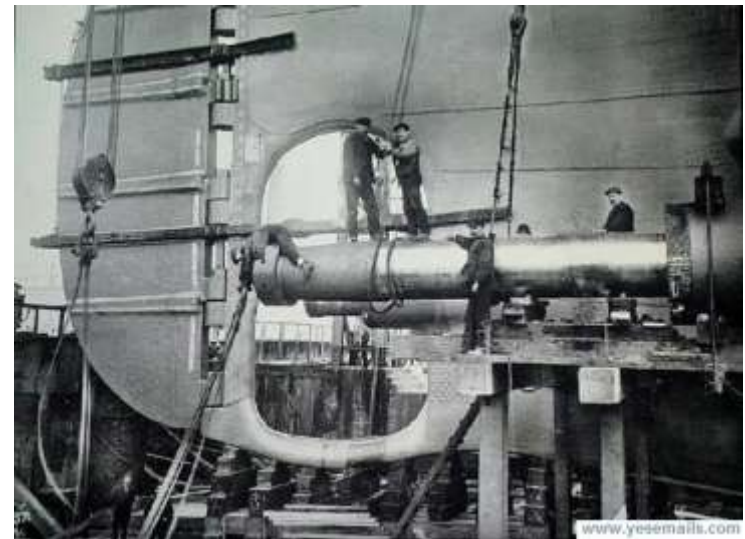


The Power of the TONGUE

⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

A. To Direct:

2. *"Rudders" to a ship*



The “unsinkable” Bismarck



The Power of the TONGUE

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!

B. To Defile:

1. *"How great a matter a little fire kindles"*



Proverbs 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

The Power of the TONGUE

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

B. To Defile:

2. *"Set on fire by hell"*



The Power of the TONGUE

⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

C. To Destroy:

1. *"Untamable; uncontrollable"*
2. *"Unruly evil"*
3. *"Full of deadly poison"*

The Power of the TONGUE

⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

Hope for Taming MY TONGUE

A. JAMES' ARGUMENT

1. **Major Premise:** (2) *If I can control the tongue, I can control my entire character*
2. **Minor Premise:** (8) *I cannot control my tongue because it is "an unruly evil"*
3. **Conclusion:** (8) *I cannot control myself*

Hope for Taming MY TONGUE


B. JESUS' SOLUTION

1. **Major Premise:** (Mt. 12:34) *My tongue expresses the contents of my heart*
2. **Minor Premise:** (Psa. 51:10) *God can give me "a clean heart"*
3. **Conclusion:** (Gal. 5:22,23) *God can control my tongue*

The Heart of the Problem is the Problem of the Heart!

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,



A good man brings good things
out of the good stored up in his
heart, and an evil man brings evil
things out of the evil stored up in
his heart. For the mouth speaks
what the heart is full of.

Luke 6:45

“Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me.”

Psalm 51:10

Next week's study in the Word:

Two Types of Wisdom



EARTHLY WISDOM



WISDOM FROM ABOVE

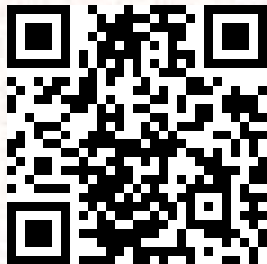
James 3:13-18

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