

"Shh...Someone's Listening" Sticks & Stones-Part 1

James 3:1-12

July 21, 2013

"If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless."
James 1:26 (NLT)

"Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything." Proverbs 13:3 (NLT)

"The tongue has the power of life and death..." Proverbs 18:21a (NIV)

❖ **How you use your tongue has everything to do with how God will use your life.**

"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 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. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 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. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 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. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." James 3:1-12 (NKJV)

THE TONGUE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO...

1. DIRECT WHERE I GO IN LIFE.

"Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body." James 3:3 (NKJV)

"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 3:4 (NKJV)

2. DESTROY WHAT I HAVE IN LIFE.

"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 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." James 3:5-6 (NKJV)

"But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." James 3:8 (NKJV)

➤ **Boastful words.**

"I say to those who are proud, 'Don't brag...'" Psalm 75:4a (NCV)

➤ **Gossiping words.**

"A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends." Proverbs 16:28 (NLT)

➤ **Deceitful words.**

'But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.'
Revelation 21:8 (NIV)

➤ **Careless words.**

‘But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.’ Matthew 12:36-37 (NKJV)

“Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.” Ephesians 5:4 (NIV)

➤ **Complaining words.**

“Do all things without complaining and disputing...” Philippians 2:14 (NKJV)

3. DISPLAY WHO I AM IN LIFE.

“...For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” Matthew 12:34b (NIV)

“With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.” James 3:9-12 (NKJV)

What Can I Do?

➤ **Clean up.**

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10 (NIV)

➤ **Request help.**

“Take control of what I say, O LORD, and guard my lips.” Psalm 141:3 (NLT)

➤ **Speak less.**

“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.” Proverbs 10:19 (NKJV)