

TAMING THE TONGUE JAMES 3:1-8

WE ARE AT THE HALFWAY POINT IN THE EPISTLE OF JAMES. THIS PRACTICAL TEACHING HAS CHALLENGED THE CHURCH TO THE REALITY OF LIVING OUT THE FAITH WE PROFESS TO HAVE. IT IS ONE THING TO SAY, "I HAVE FAITH". IT IS ANOTHER THING TO ACTUALLY LIVE IT OUT AND DO WHAT THE SCRIPTURES SAY TO DO. REMEMBER, THERE ARE NO CHAPTER BREAKS IN THE ORIGINAL GREEK WRITINGS OF THIS LETTER, SO JAMES HAS A SPECIFIC THOUGHT PROCESS AND INTENTION TO THE WISDOM HE IS SHARING. IN A NUTSHELL EXPLANATION, DO OUR ACTIONS LINE UP WITH THE STATEMENT "I BELIEVE". HOW WE RESPOND TO TRIALS, TEMPTATION, CONVICTION, THOSE IN NEED OF HELP, THE TEMPTATION TO SHOW FAVORITISM, AND HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH ARE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED WITH THUS FAR. NOW, JAMES THRUSTS US INTO ANOTHER TRUTH. DO OUR WORDS LINE UP WITH OUR STATEMENT, "I AM A BELIEVER". WE BEHAVE THE WAY WE BEHAVE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE AND OUR TONGUE(MOUTH) IS THE BIGGEST TATTLETAIL OF WHAT IS REALLY IN OUR HEARTS. JAMES IS THE PASTOR OF THE JERUSALEM CHURCH. HE IS WRITING THIS TO CHRISTIAN JEWS WHO HAVE BEEN SCATTERED DUE TO PERSECUTION. THESE PEOPLE ARE NOT THAT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN WE ARE. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE GENTILES AND HAVE ONLY EXPERIENCED GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, THE JEWISH BELIEVERS, THOUGH ONCE LIVED UNDER THE LAW OF GOD, ARE NOW BATTLING THE SAME BATTLE OF FREEDOM IN CHRIST. (THE

FLESH BATTLES WITH THE SPIRIT). OUR SIN NATURE AND FLESHLY DESIRES ARE FIGHTING FOR POSITION WITH OUR SANCTIFIED SPIRITS. JAMES PUTS THE MIRROR UP IN OUR FACE AND STATES, AND I'M PARAPHRASING, "IF YOU ARE SAVED, YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR MOUTH". HE STARTS WITH THE LEADERS IN THE CHURCH, AS HE SHOULD. LET'S GET STARTED

James 3:1 NIV

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

JAMES INCLUDES HIMSELF IN THIS WARNING
DO NOT RUSH INTO MINISTRY, THE MORE YOU TALK THE MORE OPPORTUNITY THERE IS TO SAY SOMETHING STUPID

James 1:26 NIV

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

RELIGION/THRESKEIA/WORSHIP
WORTHLESS/MATAIOS/EMPTY,USELESS

THAT DOES NOT MEAN GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO TEACH

1 Timothy 3:1 NIV

3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

IT IS A CALLING TO PREACH AND TEACH, NOT A MEANS OF BEING POPULAR OR HAVING AUTHORITY

WE ARE TO BE CAREFUL TO TEACH THE TRUTH ONLY
PAUL GIVES TIMOTHY THE SAME CHARGE HE GIVES US

1 Timothy 1:3-7 NIV

³As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith. ⁵The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

WE WHO TEACH ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY THE LORD

Ezekiel 3:17-18 NIV

¹⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ¹⁸When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their

evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood.

WE ARE TO SPEAK ONLY THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE
IT IS A BIG RESPONSIBILITY TO PREACH AND TEACH, SO ONLY
SIT UNDER THOSE WHOM YOU TRUST ARE BIBLICAL

Hebrews 13:17 NIV

¹⁷ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

James 3:2 NIV

² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS THAT WE SIN, IF WE WATCH WHAT WE SAY, OUR LIVES CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. WHY?

1. THE TONGUE HAS THE POWER TO CONTROL YOU. MASTER YOUR SPEECH, YOU MASTER YOURSELF
MASTER YOUR SPEECH, YOU MASTER WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR BODY AND YOUR IMPULSES

JESUS CALLS OUT THE HYPOCRITES

Matthew 12:34-37 NIV

³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. ³⁵ A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

WE WILL BE JUDGED BY OUR DEEDS, NOT OUR SIN, AT THE
(BEMA) MERCY SEAT OF CHRIST....EVERY WORD IS STILL
ACCOUNTED FOR

JAMES GIVES US EXAMPLES OF HOW OUR WORDS DRIVE OUR
BEHAVIOR

James 3:3-4 NIV

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or 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.

POWER APPLIED AT THE RIGHT POINT IS SUFFICIENT TO MOVE
THE WHOLE VESSEL
CONTROL YOUR TONGUE BECAUSE OF IT'S POWER TO
CONTROL YOU

ONLY SPEAK PHILIPPIANS 4:8 THINGS.....SPEAK WHAT IS TRUE,
SPEAK WHAT IS RIGHT, SPEAK WHAT IS LOVELY, SPEAK WHAT IS
PURE, SPEAK WHAT IS ADMIRABLE, EXCELLENT, AND
PRAISEWORTHY

IF OUR TONGUE WERE SO WELL UNDER CONTROL THAT IT
REFUSED TO FORMULATE THE WORDS OF SELF PITY, THE
IMAGES OF LUSTFULLNESS, THE THOUGHTS OF ANGER &
RESENTMENT, THEN THESE THINGS WOULD BE CUT DOWN
BEFORE THEY EVER HAVE A CHANCE TO LIVE (TO BE BIRTHED)

James 3:5-6 NIV

⁵ Likewise, 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. ⁶ 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 one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

WORLD/KOSMOS/SYSTEM OPPOSED TO GOD
WHOLE COURSE/TROCHOS/WHEEL

THE TONGUE IS:

1. THE SYSTEM OF INIQUITY
2. DEFILES THE WHOLE BODY (PERSON)
3. EFFECTS THE CIRCLE OF YOUR LIFE
4. LIT BY HELL ITSELF (SAVAGE & COMBATIVE WITH THE SPIRIT) SIN NATURE'S WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Colossians 3:1-10 NIV

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

ONLY GOD CAN TAME THE TONGUE, ABIDE IN HIM AND YOU WILL BEGIN TO MASTER YOUR THOUGHTS, SPEECH, AND ACTIONS

- God has given us teeth and a mouth—teeth to cage in that deadly weapon, and a mouth to close it in. The most ferocious monster in the world has his den just behind the teeth.

Actions don't always speak louder than words—your tongue can undo everything you do.

The Christian should learn two things about his tongue: how to hold it and how to use it.

The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet high.

The jawbone of an ass was a killer in Samson's time. It still is.

Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.

Speech is the mirror of the soul; as a man speaks, so he is.

OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART, THE MOUTH SPEAKS

WATCH YOUR THOUGHTS AND WATCH YOUR MOUTH, BUT
MOST OF ALL, SPEND TIME WITH GOD IN HIS WORD
THERE YOU WILL GET HIS POWER TO OVERCOME YOURSELF

END

