

TAMING THE TONGUE PART 2

JAMES 3:3-12

WE ARE IN THE THIRD CHAPTER OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES. THE MAIN POINT THAT JAMES IS CONVEYING THROUGH THIS LETTER IS A CHECK LIST OF HOW WE ARE TO LIVE WHEN WE CLAIM TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST. I BELIEVE JAMES HAS A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON THE CHARACTER OF HIS OLDER HALF BROTHER (JESUS) BECAUSE HE GREW UP WITH HIM. SURE, JAMES DID NOT BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD UNTIL HE SAW HIM RESURRECTED, BUT CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FLOODGATES OF MEMORIES THAT RUSHED BACK TO JAMES WHEN HE SAW THE RESURRECTED MESSIAH? ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE SAW JESUS HANDLE PERFECTLY GROWING UP. CONFLICT RESOLUTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, FORGIVENESS, GRACE, MERCY, AND SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE TO OTHERS, ALWAYS EXECUTED PERFECTLY. PERHAPS THERE WERE TIMES JAMES EVEN RESENTED JESUS FOR BEING PERFECT IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. IMAGINE ALL OF THOSE DOTS CONNECTING FOR JAMES AS THE REVELATION THAT JESUS IS GOD THE SON, BECAME CLEAR TO HIM. THIS IS WHY JAMES HAS SUCH AN ACUTE DIRECTIVE OF HOW TO "BE" CHRISTLIKE. THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN ORIGINALLY FOR THE SCATTERED CHRISTIAN JEWS IN AND AROUND THE JERUSALEM CHURCH WHERE HE PASTORED. FREEDOM FROM THE LAW BECAUSE OF THE FINISHED WORK ON THE CROSS IS NOT A LICENSE TO LIVE IN SIN. HOW WE THINK, SPEAK, AND LIVE ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO WHAT WE BELIEVE, SO IT IS GOOD THAT JAMES IS REMINDING THE CHURCH TO LIVE IN TRUTH

I WILL REVIEW A LITTLE FROM LAST WEEK ON TAMING THE TONGUE

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

ARE YOU THE PILOT? OR GOD? JESUS TAKE MY TONGUE

IF OUR TONGUE WERE SO WELL UNDER CONTROL THAT WE REFUSED TO FORMULATE THE WORDS OF SELF PITY, LUSTFULLNESS, FILTHINESS, 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

ONCE YOU SAY IT, YOU CAN'T UNSAY IT
WHAT TOOK YEARS TO BUILD CAN BE BURNED DOWN IN AN
INSTANT

James 3:7-8 NIV

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

ANIMALS/THERION/WILD ANIMALS, FIENDISH
RESTLESS/AKATASTATOS/UNSTABLE, IT CAN NOT BE MADE TO
STAY DOWN IN ITS PROPER PLACE
POISON/IOS/VENOM, CORROSION

THIS IS WHY JESUS CALLS IT MURDER

IT IS EASIER TO TAME A WILD BEAST THAN IT IS TO CONTROL
THE TONGUE

NO HUMAN CAN SUCCESSFULLY BE PERFECT IN SPEECH BUT
ONE WHO SOAKS IN THE WORD OF GOD, REKNEWS THE MIND,
WHICH CLEANSSES THE DECEITFULLY WICKED HEART IN A
REDEEMED BODY. A TONGUE THAT GOD HAS TAMED, CAN BE
USED TO HEAL, BUILD UP, CORRECT, AND BLESS OTHERS IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES, WHILE GLORIFYING HIM

THE MOST UNTAMABLE THING IN THE WORLD HAS ITS DEN
JUST BEHIND THE TEETH

James 3:9-10 NIV

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

IT WAS A JEWISH CHRISTIAN CUSTOM OF SAYING "BLESSED BE HE" AFTER EACH UTTERANCE OF GOD'S NAME, YET THESE SAME PEOPLE WOULD ACTUALLY CURSE SOMEONE AFTER SERVICE WHO ANGERED THEM

Matthew 15:17-18 NIV

¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

PEOPLE HURT US; GOD IS CALLING US HIGHER
WE SHOULD DEAL WITH CONFLICT/SIN IMMEDIATELY
IT MUST BE DONE BIBLICALLY, ESPECIALLY IN THE CHURCH

Matthew 18:15-17 NIV

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others

along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

DEALING WITH PEOPLE IN A HEALTHY WAY CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE....DO IT ANYWAY, OUT OF OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST

JESUS WANTS US TO HAVE FAITH IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE LOVE NEVER FAILS

JAMES ASKS TWO RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

James 3:11-12 NIV

¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

THINK OF YOUR HEART AS A FOUNTAIN AND EXAMINE IT DAILY THE EVIDENCE WILL BE IN WHAT COMES OUT, FRESH SPIRIT FILLED WATER OF LIFE OR SALTY BITTER WATER OF THE FLESH THINK ALSO OF THE REALITY THAT THE FRUIT THAT IS EXPOSED BY YOUR SPEECH, REVEALS THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART

LET US NOT DECEIVE OURSELVES OR MAKE EXUSES

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

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