

Series "Marks Of Maturity"
"Tongue"
James 3:1-12
Study-6

"Tongue" appears **215 times in the Bible. Matthew 12:37**

James 1:19 slow to speak and slow to anger;
James 1:26 bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart,
James 2:12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. James 4:11, 5:12

Book of James presents - (13 Marks Of Maturity) James addresses Mark #6
"Tongue"

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Power Of The Tongue To Direct, To Destroy, And To Delight Is All Utilized By The Mature Christian."

- 1. Verse 1 Tongue In Teaching:**
- 2. Verses 2-5 Power Of The Tongue:**
- 3. Verses 6-8 Vicious Nature Of The Tongue:**
- 4. Verses 9-12 Inconsistency Of The Tongue:**

1. Verse 1 Tongue In Teaching:

James 3:1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren
Context - James 2:14-26: "Faith That Works" and "Wordy Faith."
Now James goes from "**Works**" back to "**Words.**"
Let not many of you become teachers,
Literally "*My brothers, do not crowd in to be teachers*"
Teaching is a special gift **1 Corinthians 12:28**

my brethren

Members of the family, family of God. James was including himself.

James is warning against becoming a teacher for the wrong motive, or not counting the cost!

teachers, - Term "**Rabbi**" meant "*My great one.*"
Jewish mothers wanted their sons to be rabbis.

Responsibility Brings – A Divine Judgment: stricter judgment

Literally - "*greater judgment, special strictness*"
Is for those who teach the Word.

Luke 12:48 A teacher must know the Word and must also practice the Word.

2. Verses 2-5 Power Of The Tongue:

James 3:2 We All Sin: For we all stumble in many ways.

(Stumble) means "*sin*"

It is present tense meaning "*we all sin many times in many ways.*"

We all sin, **Romans 3:23**: there are not any that are flawless.

**Tongue The Most Dangerous Member Of Our Body:
If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man,**

**he is a perfect man,
"Mark Of Maturity – Tongue"**

This is a (mature) man

able to bridle the whole body as well.

Correlation between what we say usually leads to our deeds.

Job - Job 40:4

Isaiah - Isaiah 6:5

Moses - Numbers 12:3; Psalms 106:33

Peter - rebuked Jesus with his lips. Matthew 26:33-75

Paul - Acts 23:3

Three Items – Bit in The Horses Mouth, Rudder of A Ship, Spark of Fire,

1. Verse - 3 Bit In The Horses' Mouth:

Now if we put the bits (bridle) into the horses' mouths

It is this small bit in the horse's mouth that allows the rider to control this large animal through pulling the reigns hurts the mouth.

so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

(Control of the horse's mouth results in control of the body) Positive Goal.

Lesson – The "Bit" is like a word spoken that can bring about great usefulness.

2. Verse 4 Rudder Of A Ship: Look at the ships also, though they are so great Acts 27:37

a very small rudder

A large ship that is led by a small rudder at the stern.

"Rudder Like The Tongue Small But Achieves Great Results"

Lesson - The tongue has a ministry of guidance.

Warning, responsibilities, Circumstances. Proverbs 18:21

Psalmist David prayed to guard his mouth.

Psalms 141:3; Matthew 12:34

The Tongue Can Keep Us From Suffering Shipwreck:

Proverbs 10:19; 15:1

James 3:5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, (Tongue)

Webster's says, "movable muscular structure attached to the floor of the mouth."
"The two-ounce slab of mucous membrane."

3. Verse 5 Spark Of Fire: See, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! Our tongue can start a fire that will bring destruction.

Lesson - James relates the small fire to spiritual arson.

3. Verses 6-8 Vicious Nature Of The Tongue:

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, Proverbs 26:20-21

Proverbs 17:27

Tongue Defiles The Entire Body: that which defiles the entire body,

and sets on fire the course of our life,

"Present world system" that is in rebellion

Colossians 4:6

and is set on fire by hell.

(Gehenna) "Hell is the rubbish heap of the universe."

Southwest side of Jerusalem. Also can be set from heaven, **Isaiah 5:6-7**

Verses – 7-8 Tongue Wild And Untamable:

James 3:7 It is possible to tame animals; the result is that you get a worker instead of a destroyer. **Genesis 1:28**

is tamed, "to overpower"

It does not mean domesticate, but control; we can cage them and control them.

When you control fire, you generate power.

James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue;

Only God can tame the tongue

it is a restless evil

Literally - "unruly" This tongue is like a restless dangerous animal.

Tongue Full Of Poison: and full of deadly poison.

Some animals are poisonous. Some tongues spread poison. **Psalm 140:3**

The Poison of Gossip - "Gossip is saying behind a person's back what you would never say to his face." **Proverbs 16:27-28; 18:8**

The Poison of Flattery - "Gossip is saying behind a person's back what you would never say to his face. Flattery is saying to a person's face what you would never say behind his back." **Psalms 5:9; 55:21**

4. Verses 9-12 Inconsistency Of The Tongue:

James 3:9 The Tongue – Blesses God:
With it we bless our Lord and Father,
bles – *“speak well”* to praise and worship our Lord.

The Tongue – Curses Man: curse men,
“To invoke harm on others” means to bring destruction to others.
Strike against His image – **Genesis 9:6 Murder**

James 3:10 My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.
It is not proper for the child of God to speak such.

Verse 11 Fountain Of Water:

James 3:11 How can a source of water bring both good and bad? Impossible.

and bitter water?

“Brackish, distasteful” Water can bring destruction.

Proverbs 10:11;13:14; 18:4

Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18

Verse 12 Fruit: James 3:12 Can a fig tree,

The tongue is also delightful because it is like a tree. **Matthew 7:16**

Proverbs 15:4,18:21

Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs?

impossible

Nor can salt water produce fresh.

Application:

1. The Most Dangerous Member Of Our Body Is The Tongue. The Person That Can Control His Tongue Exhibits The Mark Of Maturity Of the Tongue.
2. The Bit In The Horse’s Mouth, The Rudder Of A Ship, The Spark Of Fire. The Tongue Has The Power For Great Usefulness Or Great Destruction.
3. Vicious Nature Of The Tongue Can Only Be Tamed Through God For His Glory.
4. Inconsistency Of Our Tongue Should Not Be So. Blessing God And Then Cursing Man. The Believers’ New Nature Should Produce A Fountain Of Refreshment, Words Of Grace.