

The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 7, 2016

“Faith that Works: The Letter of James ~

Taming My Tongue”

James 3:1-12

“For all of us make many mistakes...” (James 3:1)

‘Mistakes’ = ‘ptaio’ =

‘For’ = ‘gar’ = is a \_\_\_\_\_ word that assigns a reason for a previous statement. In other words, the reason many shouldn’t be teachers of the word is that we all make mistakes—we all \_\_\_\_\_ short of God’s standard.

“For if we could control out tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.” (James 3:2)

A person who doesn’t violate the truth of God’s word—who doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ over their tongue—is someone who is able to \_\_\_\_\_ the whole body from sin.

‘Perfect’ = ‘telios’ =

“With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.” (James 3:9)

**THE POWER OF THE TONGUE: 4 IMAGES**

- \_\_\_\_\_ . If we can control the tongue, we can control the whole \_\_\_\_\_ .
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Our tongue is like a rudder that exercises a large amount of control over the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ . We’ve all seen how our words can get out of control and \_\_\_\_\_ through a relationship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ . We may look good on the outside; however, our words reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ about what’s really in our \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Words flow out of what fills the heart.” (Matthew 12:34)

Whatever is in our heart is going to spill out in our \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Your souls aren’t harmed by what you eat, but by what you think and say!” (Mark 7:15)

“For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:78)

“Those who guard their mouths preserve their lives; those who open wide their lips come to ruin.” (Proverbs 13:3)

**3 WAYS TO TAME OUR TONGUE**

**#1. Taming our tongue means \_\_\_\_\_ before we \_\_\_\_\_ .**  
“Intelligent people think before they speak. What they say is then more persuasive.” (Proverbs 16:23)

**3 SITUATIONS**

- \_\_\_\_\_  
Anger is a normal and natural reaction to life. It is what we do with our anger and how we \_\_\_\_\_ it, that can get us into trouble!

Speaking in anger can have a devastating effect on people, and can ruin \_\_\_\_\_ .

“Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.” (Prov 29:11)

When we treat communication like a \_\_\_\_\_—when we think that somebody has to win and somebody has to lose—we all \_\_\_\_\_ .

How do we argue so that everyone comes out a \_\_\_\_\_? How do we do this in a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

“In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you’re still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” (Ephesians 4:26)

We need to try to resolve the issue the same day, because if we don’t, we give the enemy \_\_\_\_\_ to our relationship; things will compound; and it will take longer to for us to \_\_\_\_\_ .

- \_\_\_\_\_  
“A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.” (Proverbs 16:28)

“Their lives are filled with all kinds of sexual sins, wickedness, and greed. They are mean. They are filled with envy, murder, quarrelling, deceit, and viciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, haughty, arrogant, and boastful...” (Romans 1:29)

We shouldn't fool ourselves—we may think that gossip is a small thing; but, it can cause huge \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to check our motives because we can so easily slip into gossip—even when we have the best \_\_\_\_\_.

“Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, Christians have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.” (Ephesians 5:4)

- \_\_\_\_\_ . Sometimes it's not what we say, but \_\_\_\_\_ we say that can get us into trouble.

“Watch your words and hold your tongue. You'll save yourself a lot of grief.” (Proverbs 21:23)

**How careful are you with your words? How often do you think before you speak?**

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**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

**#2. Taming our tongue means \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.**

“The word of truth lasts forever, but lies last only a moment.” (Proverbs 12:19)

“Someone who holds back the truth causes all kinds of trouble.” (Prov 10:10)

We can bend the truth for all kinds of reasons—one of the most common being to avoid \_\_\_\_\_.

Keeping something back—especially the truth—just to avoid conflict, only leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

“An honest answer is a sign of true friendship.” (Proverbs 24:26)

We don't lie to someone we love—we \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

Speaking the truth in a relationship may lead to conflict; however, it can also lead to deeper \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Speaking the truth in love.” (Ephesians 4:15)

“No matter what I say, what I believe, or what I do, I am bankrupt without love.” (1 Corinthians 13:3)

If you are not going to express it with love; with the other's person's best \_\_\_\_\_ in mind; from a place of \_\_\_\_\_ and not pride; out of love and not judgement—don't say it!

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth.” (1 Cor 13:6)

“In the end people appreciate frankness more than flattery.” (Prov 28:23)

**How honest are your words? Do you speak the truth in love?**

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**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

**#3. Taming our tongue means seeking to \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword. But wisely spoken words can heal.” (Proverbs 12:18)

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs.” (Ephesians 4:29)

It's so easy to be critical instead of to \_\_\_\_\_; to use our words to \_\_\_\_\_, instead of encourage; to be negative, instead of \_\_\_\_\_.

**'unwholesome' = \_\_\_\_\_**

Unhelpful words are those used during a conversation or argument—often in a certain \_\_\_\_\_—that \_\_\_\_\_ the other person, demean them, or create bad feelings.

**T:** Are these words \_\_\_\_\_ or biased?

**H:** Are they helpful or are they going to \_\_\_\_\_?

**I:** Are they \_\_\_\_\_—are they going to build up or tear down?

**N:** Are they \_\_\_\_\_? Do I need to say them?

**K:** Are they \_\_\_\_\_ or mean-spirited?

“A word of encouragement does wonders.” (Proverbs 12:25)

**Do your words build up or tear down?**

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**1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**

“You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say.” (Proverbs 18:20)

“...our tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.” (James 3:5)