

James

Lesson 5

“If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.”

James Chapter 3

Introduction

- Unlike animals, God has given us the ability to verbalize our thoughts through language
- Using this ability to speak, we can choose to use words that will either produce great good or great evil
- Words that we speak are powerful to edify or destroy

2

Introduction

- Lies destroy but the gospel saves and edifies
- James warns that we should seek to let God's Word control our minds that we will be able to control our tongues

3

“If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.”

1. Warning to many not to become teachers 3:1
2. A mature Christian who controls his tongue will also be able to control his body 3:2
3. Examples of small things controlling much larger things 3:3-6
4. Irony of the untamable tongue 3:7-12
5. Divine wisdom needed to control the tongue 3:13-18

4

Warning To Many Not To Become Teachers

Jas 3:1 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

5

Warning To Many Not To Become Teachers

2Ti 4:1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

6

Warning To Many Not To Become Teachers

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
2Ti 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

7

Warning To Many Not To Become Teachers

1Ti 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

8

A Mature Christian Who Controls His Tongue Will Also Be Able To Control His Body

Jas 3:2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

9

All That Is Spoken By The Tongue Comes From The Heart

Mat 12:34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

Mat 12:35 "The good man brings out of *his* good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of *his* evil treasure what is evil.

10

All That Is Spoken By The Tongue Comes From The Heart

Mat 12:36 "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Mat 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

11

Key To Controlling The Tongue Is Controlling The Mind

Rom 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

12

Key To Controlling The Tongue Is Controlling The Mind

Rom 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

13

Key To Controlling The Tongue Is Controlling The Mind

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

14

Key To Controlling The Tongue Is Controlling The Mind

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

15

Examples Of Small Things Controlling Much Larger Things

Jas 3:3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

Jas 3:4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

16

Examples Of Small Things Controlling Much Larger Things

Jas 3:5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

17

Irony Of The Untamable Tongue

Jas 3:7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

Jas 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

Jas 3:9 With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

18

Irony Of The Untamable Tongue

Jas 3:10 from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

Jas 3:11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*?

Jas 3:12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

19

Divine Wisdom Needed To Control The Tongue

Jas 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

Jas 3:14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

Jas 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

20

Divine Wisdom Needed To Control The Tongue

Jas 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Jas 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Jas 3:18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

21

Divine Wisdom Needed To Control The Tongue

Jas 1:19 *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;

Jas 1:20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

22

Divine Wisdom Needed To Control The Tongue

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.

23

Divine Wisdom Needed To Control The Tongue

Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

Eph 5:4 *and there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

24

Divine Wisdom Needed To Control The Tongue

Eph 5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, as *though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

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