

# Taming the Tongue

The Test of a Believer's Speech: Part 1 James 3:5-12 Chris Mueller 1-2-22

## Introduction:

**Psalm 141:3** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

**Proverbs 10:19** When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

**Psalm 39:1** I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue, I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle.

**1<sup>st</sup> Your words are a \_\_\_\_\_**

**Matthew 12:34b**—For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Your words are \_\_\_\_\_**

**James 3:6** And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity.

**Luke 12:3** Whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

**Matthew 12:36-37** I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Your words are \_\_\_\_\_**

**Exodus 14:10-11** As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?"

## #1 Your talking has the PROFICIENCY to DETERMINE 1-2

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

## #2 Your talking has the POWER to DIRECT 3-5a

**3** Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. **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. **5** So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

**5b** See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! **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. **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. **8** But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; **10** from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. **11** Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? **12** Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

## #3 Your talking has the POTENTIAL to \_\_\_\_\_ **5b-8 Fire, Beast & Poison**

### 1<sup>st</sup> FIRE

**5b** See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! **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.

**Proverbs 16:27** A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are as a scorching fire.

**Proverbs 26:21** Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

**Proverbs 26:20** For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down.

**ONE 6a** the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity;

**TWO 6b** the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body,

**Mark 7:20-23** That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.

**THREE 6c** and sets on fire the course of our life,

**FOUR 6d** and is set on fire by hell.

**Mark 9:43-44** The unquenchable fire, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

**Matthew 25:41** Hell was prepared for the Devil and his demons.

**Psalm 39:1** I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue, I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle.

**Psalm 141:3** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth, keep watch over the door of my lips.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> BEAST

7-8a For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. 8 But no one can tame the tongue;

## 3<sup>rd</sup> POISON

8b it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison

## #4 Your talking has the POTENCY to be \_\_\_\_\_ 9-12 Human experience & Nature

### 1<sup>st</sup> You know the tongue is treacherous through human \_\_\_\_\_ 9-10

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

**JOHN PIPER:** Man's blessing God is an "expression of praising thankfulness."

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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> You know the tongue is treacherous through \_\_\_\_\_ 11-12

ONE 11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

**Colossians 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.

TWO 12b Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs?

**Matthew 7:18, 20** Nor can a bad tree produce good fruit...So then, you will know them by their fruits.

THREE 12c Nor can salt water produce fresh.

**Ephesians 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.

#### TAKE HOME:

A - When your speaking is inconsistent, it exposes a problem of your \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 12:34b** For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

B - If you are not filled with the Spirit, then your talk is in the \_\_\_\_\_

**FLESH Proverbs 17:20** He who has a crooked mind finds no good, and he who is perverted in his language falls into evil.

**SPIRIT Proverbs 18:21a** Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

**Proverbs 25:11** Like apples of gold in settings of silver Is a word spoken in right circumstances.

**Ephesians 5:18-21** Be filled with the Spirit...

C - Every genuine Christian must determine to set a \_\_\_\_\_ over their mouth

**Psalms 141:3** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

D - The only way to speak like a Christian is to be born again by \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONS for GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. Name all the different ways from the scripture that believers can sin with their speech (like gossip, slander etc.) and define them.
2. How can Christians graciously, creatively, and lovingly help each other with their speech?
3. Share with others how someone's words changed your life in a positive way!
4. While being dependent upon the Holy Spirit, what steps can believers take to begin to control their speech in a better way?
5. What kind of thoughts should believers never speak? What kind of words should believers say more often?
6. How can each believer be true to the way God made them but also guard their tongues?



Sermon audio from today and past Sundays can be found at [media.faith-bible.net](http://media.faith-bible.net), in our sermon podcast, "Faith Bible Church Sermons," and inside of the Faith Bible Church App.