

## **James 3:1-12**

### *Me and My Big Mouth*

September 26, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)*

Gentle words are a tree of life; but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. (15:4)

*The mouth of the godly person gives wise advice, but the tongue that deceives will be silenced. (10:31)*

The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (12:18).

*The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. (15:28)*

Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy for the body. (16:24)

*The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding maintains a calm spirit. (17:27)*

Wise words are rarer and more valuable than gold and rubies. (20:15)

*Those who guard their mouths and tongues keep themselves from calamity. (21:23)*

Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken at the right time. (25:11)

*When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. (31:26)*

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. (18:21)

**James 3:1** - My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

**v. 2** - For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone doesn't stumble in word, he's a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

**Acts 23:5** - “Brothers, I didn't realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Don't speak evil about the ruler of your people.’”

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**Job 40:1-4** - The LORD said to Job: “Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty? Let him who accuses God answer Him!” Then Job answered the LORD: “I'm unworthy—how can I reply to You? I put my hand over my mouth.”

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### **1. The Tongue Has Power To Direct**

**v. 3-5** - Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we *turn* their whole body. (A tiny, one pound bit can turn a 1,200 pound horse.) <sup>4</sup> Look also at ships: although they're so large and are driven by fierce winds, they're *turned* by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

**2 Samuel 16:7-9** - As he cursed, Shimei said, “Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel! The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you've reigned. The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You've come to ruin because you're a murderer!” Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head.”

**1 Samuel 25** - "Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD will surely make a lasting dynasty for my lord, because he fights the LORD's battles. May no evil be found in you as long as you live."

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## **2. The Tongue Has Power To Destroy.**

**v. 5** - See how great a forest a little fire kindles! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

**v. 6** - The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

**v. 7** - For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

I read this week that there's a college in Boston that trains service monkeys.

**Their website:** *A monkey helper can assist with tasks such as: retrieving dropped or out of reach objects, helping with a drink of water, turning pages, scratching itches, pushing buttons and switches for remotes, phones, computers, etc., and even repositioning limbs on a wheelchair.*

**v. 8** - But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

**Isaiah 6:5-7** - "Woe to me!" I cried. "I'm ruined! For I'm a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he'd taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips, your iniquity is removed."

**Matthew 12:34** - "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

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### **3. The Tongue Has Power To Delight.**

**v. 9-12** - With it (the tongue) we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the image of God. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup> Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? <sup>12</sup> Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

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#### **1. Pray**

#### **2. Fill your heart with good things.**

#### **3. Memorize and apply helpful Scriptures.**

**Ps 119:11** - Your word I have hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

**James 1:19** - Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

But don't just memorize it--live it.

- **Quick to hear...**
- **Slow to speak...**
- **Proverbs 15:28 - The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking.**
- **Slow to anger**
- **If you do get angry, it's best to calm down before you speak**

**Ephesians 4:29** - Don't let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is *helpful* for *building others up* according to their *needs*, that it may *benefit* those who listen.

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**James mentions three different kinds of faith in James 2.**

**1. The Tongue Has Power To \_\_\_\_\_ (Bit and Rudder).**

**2. The Tongue Has Power To \_\_\_\_\_ (Fire and Animals).**

**3. The Tongue Has Power To \_\_\_\_\_ (Fountain and Tree).**

**How to tame your tongue:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_**

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2. Fill your heart with \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Memorize and apply \_\_\_\_\_.