



Taming the Tongue

James 3:1-12

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Proverbs 18:21 – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue and they that love it shall eat its fruits.”

An Initial Warning (3:1-2): Teaching is a serious responsibility

Why are teachers judged more strictly?

- 1) Teachers should teach TRUTH, not personal opinion (*Revelate, don't Speculate!*)
- 2) What a teacher says affects so many lives.
- 3) Teachers must live what they teach.

Jimmy Draper said, “James is not saying that no one should be a teacher, but that those whom God has called to teach need to realize that it is not a reward for their piety and holiness. It is a calling of God; and if a person is called they need to accept the tremendous responsibility that goes along with it.”

1. Our Tongues Direct (3:3-4)

- the bit
- the rudder

Psalm 39:1 - “I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.”

2. Our Tongues Destroy (3:5-8)

- the fire
- the animal

3. Our Tongues Display (3:9-12)

- the fountain
- the tree

Matthew 7:18 – “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”

Matthew 12:34 – “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Psalm 141:3 – “Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Psalm 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.”