

**JAMES 3**  
**TONGUE TAMING**

- I. Your Tongue is powerful. Vs.1-2,5
  - a. Your tongue is small but its impact is big. James 3:5a,8a (see also Proverbs 18:21)
  - b. Your Tongue displays your maturity

*Matthew 12:34b "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."*

*Anonymous: "If you want to know what lies in a person's heart, Argue with them. "*
  - c. The tongue of a teacher is held accountable before God. James 3:1-2
  
- II. Consider 6 Examples communicating the power of your tongue. James3:3-12
  - a. #1 The tongue is described as a rudder and a bit. James 3:3-4
    - i. The Tongue directs
    - ii. A bit and a rudder primarily offer us direction.
    - iii. Before you know where to direct, you need to know where God is leading
  - b. #2 The tongue is described as a fire and a poison. James3:5-8
    - i. The tongue can destroy
    - ii. No one ever thinks they are a fire and a poison. Most people just think they are misunderstood.
      1. Several ways the tongue serves as a fire and a poison: Gossip, complaining, hateful words, attacking words, boasting, criticism, and cynicism.
      2. Remember: Hurt people hurt people.
  - c. #3 The tongue is described as a tree and water. James 3:9-12
    - i. The tongue provides life.
    - ii. Words offer life. Because Words connect to our soul. (Prov 18:4, 10:11; 13:14)
  
- III. How can you utilize your tongue well?
  - a. Concerning the tongue: How do we steer right (rudder & bit)? How do we give life (tree & water), How do we avoid being dangerous (fire and poison)?
  - b. Your speech is determined by what you honor with your heart.
    - i. Worship well and gain wisdom that translates to speech. James 3:9-11.
  - c. The way to measure the health of your heart is by what you value.
    - i. Life offers two kinds of wisdom: Worldly and Godly
    - ii. The worlds Wisdom is found in James 3;14-16.
      1. The worlds wisdom is self-focused
    - iii. God's wisdom is found in James 3:13, 17-18
      1. Gods wisdom is measured by character.
      2. Gods' wisdom is selfless focused. The answer to wisdom is found outside of you. (1 Cor. 1: 24, 30, Col. 2:3).

***Colossians 2:3 "Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."***