

Taming the Tongue - James 3:1-12

Topics: Change, Conversation, Teaching, Words

Open It

- * 1. If you could hear a tape recording of everything you said last week, what would you want to edit out?
2. How do you react when you hear someone cursing and using abusive language?
3. How can a person be hurt by the words of others?
4. What can you learn about a person by listening to him or her speak?

Explore It

5. What unique responsibility does a teacher bear? (3:1)
- * 6. If a person were never at fault in what he or she said, what would that show about the person? (3:2)
- * 7. What is significant about the way we talk? (3:3)
8. What is the purpose of a bit in the mouth of a horse? (3:3)
9. What is the purpose of the rudder of a ship? (3:4)
10. What damage can a small spark cause to a great forest? (3:4)
11. What similarity does a person's tongue have to a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, and a spark of fire? (3:5)
12. How did James describe the tongue? (3:6-8)
13. What damage do our tongues do to us? (3:6)
- * 14. What is so difficult about taming the tongue? (3:7-8)
15. Of what inconsistencies are we capable? (3:9-10)
16. In what ways are we inconsistent? (3:9-10)
17. What illustrations from nature did James use to condemn cursing? (3:11-12)
18. What can a spring or a fruit tree teach us about speech? (3:11-12)

Get It

19. What motivates a person to teach others?
20. How is a teacher in the church supposed to be different from the average member?
21. Why will God judge teachers more strictly than other people?
- * 22. What are the ways we sin with our speech?
23. Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
24. How is our speech influenced by others around us?
25. What practical advice would you give someone who wanted to control his or her tongue better?
26. What weaknesses in our lives does our speech often expose?
- * 27. In what times or places can your tongue be used for good?
28. How can you change your daily speech to reflect its importance in your life?

Apply It

29. What do you need to remove from your speech habits this week to make your words more pleasing to God?
- * 30. What positive words do your family and coworkers need to hear from your mouth this week?