



Study of: James

THEME: CHRIST INSIDE AND OUT

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Class 5 “Maturity From the Mouth” Overview:

This lesson from James 3 examines the tongue's enormous power — for both destruction and edification. Ultimately, the way we speak to and about others is a direct reflection of God's love within us.

Class Objectives:

1. **What are areas where Christians need to exercise greater control over their tongues?**
2. **What are some examples of how we can build with our words?**
3. **How are our words a reflection of the Love of God in our hearts?**

The Importance of the Tongue

James 3:1-2 *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a [a]perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.”*

- **“teachers”** - “didaskalos”[de-da-sko-lōs] - In general, a person who teaches others; in church leadership, a person who teaches the doctrine and way of life of Christianity.
 - **Ephesians 4:11** *“11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,”*
 - **“become”** - as to say that these teachers were self-promoted, not called
 - Being a teacher was the coveted title of that day - (preacher - pastor - Rev. Dr - Bishop, Apostle, etc..)
- **“Stricter judgment”** - greater standard, greater severity, greater accountability
 - You can't have the greatness of the title without the greatness of responsibility
 - The teacher's tongue shapes the mindset and the behavior of those being taught
 - **“Mark 9:42** *“42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe and trust in Me to stumble [that is, to sin or lose faith], it would be better for him if a heavy millstone [one requiring a donkey's strength to turn it] were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. “*
- Vs 2 - “able also to bridle the whole body” - So goes the tongue, so goes the whole body

Q. What are some areas where Christians need to exercise greater control over their tongues?

The Destruction of the Tongue

James 3:8 “8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

- Three illustrations of both the power and the destructive ability of the untamed tongue
 - The horse, the ship, the forest fire -
 - Amazing how something so small can do so much damage
- The tongue is untamable, it's unruly, and full of deadly poison (AMP-“a restless evil”)
 - “But the tongue is just the delivery system - the poison comes from somewhere deeper
 - **Luke 6:45** “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”
- **“The opposition of destruction is to build”** - if the tongue is so powerful that it can destroy, then it must also have the ability to build
 - **Hebrews 11:3** “3 By faith we understand that the [c]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”
 - God gave us the ability to create with our words (our kids, homes, churches)
 - May we not be reckless with neither our words nor our silence
- “Edification” - means to build and to strengthen someone with words
- **1 Corinthians 10:23** “All things are lawful [that is, morally legitimate, permissible], but not all things are beneficial or advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things are constructive [to character] and edifying [to spiritual life].”

Q. What are some examples of how we can build with our words?

The Duplicity of the Tongue

James 3:9-10 “9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the [f]similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”

- **“bless”** - GK “eulogeō”[ev-lo-ye-oh] in English, we get the word eulogize - to speak well of
- **“Curse”** - means to cut off, to pronounce misfortune upon
- I call this the “Saint among the saints - devil everywhere else complex.”
 - **1 John 4:20-21** “20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother; he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, [d]how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”
- If what we say to God doesn't affect what we say to people, we have a serious problem
- **Proverbs 15:1** “A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”
- **Proverbs 18:21** “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Q. How are our words a reflection of the Love of God in our hearts?