

“HOW TO TAME MY TONGUE”
JAMES SERMON SERIES - #5 JAMES 3:1-12
JULY 13th, 2025

Introduction

James 3:2 – For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

Proverbs 12:18 – There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (NASB)

1. Why must I watch what I say?

a. My tongue directs _____.

James 3:3 – If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

James 3:4 – Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

b. My tongue can destroy _____.

James 3:5, 6b – So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire. ... The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

James 3:7-8 – For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

c. My tongue displays _____. It's inconsistent.

James 3:9-10 – With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

James 3:11-12 – Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

The problem is not with my tongue but with _____.

Matthew 12:34, 36 – You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ... But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

2. What's the solution?

a. _____.

Ezekiel 18:31b – Make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

b. _____.

Psalms 141:3 – Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

d. _____.

James 1:19 – Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

THINK	Is it T rue?	Is it H elpful?	Is it I nspiring?
	Is it N ecessary?	Is it K ind?	