

James

(9) The tattletale tongue

James 3:3-6 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. NIV

Oh, that tongue...James 3:1-12

What is the next 'pearl' addressed by James? 3:1 see Mt.23:1-8

He warns those who would be teachers (Scripture) because they'll get stricter judgment.

What seems to be one of the key reasons for this warning? Job 42:7-9 see 1:19

Presuming to speak for the Lord but 'not speaking of Me what is right...'. Fearful indeed.

What is the admonition of Scripture to anyone teaching the Word? IITim.2:15

Work at it to be approved to God, not ashamed but accurately handling the Word.

What does James (we) acknowledge in 3:2a? IJn.1:8-10 **Mt.12:34**

We all stumble in many ways. Denial of sin is a huge issue. Our words reveal our heart!

IN CONTROL: What are his (2) examples re the tongue's small size yet large influence? 2:3-4

Control a horse by a small bit and a large ship in rough seas by a small rudder.

What's his comparison? 2:5 see Prov.10:18-21 (the tongue can control...)

Likewise (in a similar manner) the tongue is small but it boasts (make wild claims).

INFECTIOUS: What are his (2) examples re the tongue's ability to destroy? 2:5-7

A single spark consumes a whole forest and wild animals that need to be tamed.

And his comparison? 2:8 see Rom.3:9-18

No MAN can tame the tongue. (But God can). The untamed tongue shows the sinful heart.

INCONSISTENT: What are his (2) examples re the tongue's inability to be tamed? 2:11-12

Salt spring and a fig tree. They are what they are! They don't naturally change.

And his comparison? 2:9-10

A tongue which praises God, then curses man. This tongue is not tamed. Shows the heart.

Show me your faith by a controlled tongue...3:13-18

What is James' challenge to the 'wise and understanding'? 3:13

Show your wisdom/understanding by deeds done in true humility. Show me your faith!

But if your heart has envy and selfish ambition you will be boastful. How's that seen?

It's the tongue again. It reflects the depths of the heart. In this case, arrogant/proud.

Where does this 'wisdom' originate? 3:15-16

This 'wisdom' is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. This tongue shows disorder/evil doing.

What does heavenly wisdom look like? 3:17-18

Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, fruitful, impartial, sincere, righteous

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