



Lesson 6: The Instrument of Pain (3:1-12)

The first two chapters of James focus particularly on our works as they relate to the Lord. James closed chapter two with a tremendous challenge saying that if your works are not matching your faith then your faith is really not real. If you think the heat was pretty hot in chapters 1 and 2 you need only turn to chapter 3 to realize that James moves it up a notch as the Spirit of God leads him. James moves from the topic of our _____ to the topic of our _____. Speech is a very important topic for James. In fact he discusses it in every single chapter of his book

- 1:19 *“Let every man be swift to hear and slow to _____.”*
- 1:26 – *“If any man among you seem to be religious and bridelth not his _____ this man’s religion is in vain.”*
- 2:12 – *“So _____ ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.”*
- 3 – The focus of the chapter and our focus today
- 4:11 – *“_____ not evil of another, brethren.”*
- 5:12 – *“But above all things my brethren _____ not.”*

James is filled with convicting things about what we say. We are told again and again that our speech must be submitted to the Lord. The tongue is the world’s smallest yet largest trouble maker. As we come to James 3 we see ho James has woven together some compelling pictures that challenge us to allow the Spirit of God control our speech.

YOU MUST SURRENDER YOUR TONGUE TO THE SPIRIT IN ORDER TO HARNESS THE TONGUES _____ (1-5)

The tongue is your body’s strongest muscle.

A. It is a _____ muscle (v. 3-4)

Like a bit that moves the horses head or a rudder than moves a boat in the sea it has the ability to set the course.

B. It is a _____ muscle (v. 5-6)

Like a fire, the tongues sinful words can spread destruction rapidly, or as its accompanying smoke, those words can permeate and ruin everything around it.

YOU MUST SURRENDER YOUR TONGUE TO THE SPIRIT IN ORDER TO HARNESS THE TONGUES _____ (7-10)

Of all the great fires in history none can compare to a word let go without consideration.

A. The tongue is _____ (v. 7)

There is one little creature which human nature, in its own strength, finds it impossible to domesticate. The tongue is fiercer than the most ferocious of beast. The words of a false tongue are fangs of a moral venom which no human skill can supply an _____.

B. The tongue is _____ (v. 8-9)

We have filled our minds with so much filth that our speech has become wildly inconsistent. Ponder the power of your tongue to taint places that ought to be filled with holiness and conversations that ought to be filled with Christ.

YOU MUST SURRENDER YOUR TONGUE TO THE SPIRIT IN ORDER TO HARNESS THE TONGUES _____ (10-12)

Although the believer has in the indwelling Holy Spirit the potential for controlling the tongue, he may not be appropriating that potential. Hence, James insists *“this should not be ...”*

In the case of a soul that has experienced the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit, this unnatural inconsistency of blessing and cursing not only *“ought not so to be,”* but *does not need to be!* Your tongue although _____ and _____ has the _____ to be of great service for its Maker.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Consider the words of the Psalmist:

“Let the _____ of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer” (Ps. 19:14)

There are those in this room who might say, “I’ve never committed a major sin. I’m not a thief or a perpetual liar. I’ve not committed adultery or killed someone.” Consider this question:

HOW MANY OF YOUR _____ DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE FOR?

Dear Christian friend, Christ did not only keep you from the _____ of corruption but from the _____ of it.