

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 3:1-4

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“The Tongue, and What it Can do”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
- deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of The Text

vv. 1-4

James 3:1-5

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 perfect man, able also to **bridle** the whole body. ³ Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

Body Parts!

What if Other Parts of our Body could Talk?

And what if they desired to change their location?

1 Corinthians 12:14-18

For the body is not one member but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body desired to hear, where would be the smelling be? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

What Would The **Foot** Have to Say?

What Would The **Hands** Have to Say?

What Would The **Ears** Have to Say?

What Would The **Elbows** Have to Say?

Consider the Location of the Tongue

It's strategically located so everybody can
see it and hear it

It's a Small Thing. It's an Amazing Thing.

It's a muscle; it's very long

But Notice

it's been created to stay behind an ivory gate of teeth

The Theme of this Chapter Can be Found in Verse 13

James 3:13

Who is wise and understanding among you?

Let him show by **good conduct** that his works are done in the **meekness of wisdom**.

James has been stressing,
Practical Christian Living to his fellow Christians

James 1:2

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

- * Brethren 80 adephos (ad-el-fos');
root - delphus, meaning the womb. a companion, partner of the womb

Our New Spiritual Family

James 2:1

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.

James 2:14a

What does it profit, **my brethren**, if someone says he has faith but does not

James 1:16

Do not be deceived, my **beloved** brethren.

- * Beloved 27 agapetos (ag-ap-ay-tos');
eng. dear, or one who's tenderly loved. one who has been singled out for love

James 1:19

So then, my **beloved** brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

James 2:5a

Listen, my **beloved** brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich

The Christian Journey

and how our relationship is the adventure of life

Traveling Together establishes
a Bond, a Unity, a Community

James Practically Administers Instruction with Love

“The Tongue, and What it Can do”

1.) The Mature Christian is Aware of the Danger

vv. 1

James 3:1

My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a **stricter** judgment.

1a.) A Warning - About Becoming a Teacher

vv. 1a

My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**,

The ancient custom of the day

was that everybody was given a turn at teaching the congregation

The Word Appears Only Here

- * Teachers grk 1320 didaskalos (did-as'-kal-os);
an instructor, a doctor of learning, a master of the major, teacher of truth.

James is not approving!

- Not All Have the Gift of Teaching
- Fewer Still are Called to be Pastors

The Immature believer / your professor of faith
will say “I can teach too” or “I’ve got something to say”
or “I can do that “

Having the Desire to be a Teacher
is a Dangerous thing

The Biblical Teacher

It must be a Calling from God • not a desire of a man

Ephesians 4:11-12

And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors/teachers**,¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Not **any**, but Not **Many**

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.²⁸ And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?³⁰ Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

The Danger is Very Real

2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people,
even as there will be false teachers among you,

“The Mature Christian is Aware of the Danger”

1b.) A Warning - The Judgment of the Teachers

vv. 1b

Knowing that we shall receive a **stricter judgment**.

Being in the place of Authority can lead to severe responsibilities...

* Knowing grk 1492 eido (i'-do);
being aware of, clearly perceiving

Built into every human being is the desire to search for the meaning of life and the purpose for their existence. There is a Vacancy Sign Hung on Every Heart that's without Christ

This Fact alone Places the Teacher of "Spiritual Things" in a very powerful position of Influence...

2 Corinthians 5:10a,11a

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...

NOTICE THE URGENCY AND RESPONSIBILITY

INFLUENCE

1 Corinthians 9:22-24

to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

The teacher will be judged harder than the others

Matthew 12:32-37

"Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come. ³³ "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶ "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

James 1:19 NIV

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to **speak** and slow to become angry,

James 2:12

So **speak** and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

James 4:11a

Do not **speak** evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, **speaks** evil of the Law and Judges the Law

Proverbs 10:19

In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 10:31-32

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut out. ³² The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

Proverbs 15:1-2

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. ² The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

Proverbs 21:23

Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

“The Mature Christian is Aware of the Danger”

A Warning - The Judgment of the Teachers

You can be a teacher and not be called to be a pastor.

But if you are called to be a pastor, you must have the gift of teaching

Pastor/Teachers

Jeremiah 23:4

"I will set up **shepherds** over them who will **feed** them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD.

Luke 12:48b

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required;

Knowing / Knowledge / Understanding

leaves no room for excuses, you can't redefine it away

Knowledge generates Accountability and Teaching produces Responsibility

1 Peter 4:17

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Having The Healthy View

We shall receive a stricter judgment (James)

The True Shepherd of God is Very Concerned About
What He says, and How He says it...

Lord, Are They Getting It?

Hebrews 13:7

Remember those who rule over (lead) you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over (lead) you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.

Be careful What You Say to Someone

is it biblical, is it clearly understood by you enough to counsel others

“The Tongue, and What it Can do”

2.) The Mature Christian is Always on the Guard vv. 2-4

2 For we all stumble in many things.

If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to **bridle** the whole body. **3** Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. **4** Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires....

For we all **stumble** in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to **bridle** the **whole body**.

“The Mature Christian is Always on the Guard”

2a.) Recognizing His Own Weakness and Evil

vv. 2a

For we all **stumble** in many things

- * **stumble** grk 4417 **ptaio (ptah'-yo)**;
to trip over something. To lose your footing.
To “stumble” over your tongue
- * **things** grk 4183 **polus (pol-oos')**;
the abundant amount of something, the common

Daily we are Guilty of Saying, Doing, or Thinking

something that causes us to offend either ourselves or someone around us

“The Mature Christian is Always on the Guard”

2b.) Being Careful to reach Toward The **Requirement**

vv. 2b

If anyone does not stumble in word,
he is a **perfect** man, able also to **bridle** the **whole body**.

- * **Perfect** grk 5046 **teleios (tel'-i-os)**;
to make whole or complete in mental and moral character. A fully grown man.

Philippians 3:13-15a

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything

It's a Heart Thing

Matthew 12:34b

...For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Why Do You Say What You Say?

Because it's living inside your heart

On The Mount, Peter's Example

Mark 9:2-6

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. ⁴ And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" -
- ⁶ peter saying this because he did not know what to say,

Who is the Mature Christian Among Us? The one who keeps his mouth under control

Galatians 5:14-16

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Who's The Perfect Man? (Not sinless, but mature)

Will be that one who controls his mouth

"The Mature Christian is Always on the Guard"

2c.) Keeping Himself Ready for the Master's Use

vv. 2c

A perfect man is able also to **bridle** the **whole body**

- * bridle grk 5468 chalinagogo (khal-in-ag-ogue-eh'-o);
to control what's been harnessed. To curb the flow as a river that has been brought under control

Proverbs 17:27

He who has knowledge spares his words,
and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

- * whole body grk 3650 holos (hol'-os);
the entire person, from head to toe

James is Saying
“What I say out of my Mouth has an Effect upon my
whole Body...”

The Two Illustrations

(verse 3)

Indeed, we put **bits** in horses' mouths that they may obey us,
and we turn their whole body.

A half pound of metal in the mouth of a horse
can control all 1800 pounds of him

The Bible becomes our bit

we are like the horse who needs input by being under the control of the Lord

If the horse resists - it will hurt - the rider knows what's best
for the horse...

Psalm 32:9

Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed
with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.

Psalm 39:1

I said to myself, "I will guard my ways, lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a
muzzle"

The Second Illustration

(verse 4)

Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are
turned by a very small **rudder** wherever the pilot desires.

Bits, Rudders & Tongues

#1

A Massive Ship in Comparison to its little Rudder

I can be encouraged too

#2

Fierce external forces are surrounding it
the difficulties in life don't have to blow me off course

#3

The ship is still controlled by the little rudder
the greater the wind, the faster the speed

#4

Being under the control of the Pilot-Captain
the will of the captain is translated to the rudder, which directs the ship

God is the Pilot, Your Life is the Ship
and your Tongue is the Rudder.

...So Where are you going?

- Is your rudder under the control of the captain?
- In what direction is your life heading?

We Have no Excuses

for the unloving way we might speak to one another

Even the **TONE** in which you speak can be Offensive

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

2 Peter 1:5-10

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old

sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Every one of us possess the power to shape
someone's life by what we say

or

We can use that power to destroy and pull down a life

Personal Observation: I have noticed that people who are cutting and destructive with their words are the ones who have very deep and emotional and spiritual problems in life

They Have a Need
to Pull Others down to where they're at

A Mouth Out of Control

1. is quick to speak
2. is critical of others
3. is judgmental
4. tears down others
5. is proud

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

A Mouth Under Control

1. is slow to speak
2. encourages other people
3. is gracious
4. builds others up
5. is humble

What We Hear Determines So Much of How We Think

Romans 12:4-6a

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: