

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 3:5-12

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-307 AUGUST 21, 1998

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Six Evil Dangers of Our Tongues”

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. 5-12

Summation Sentence

Words can be such wonderful things. They can be arranged to create a song that brings us pleasure and assist us in expression!

James 3:5-12

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.

1. The Issue of Danger	vv. 5-6
2. The Issue of Control	vv. 7-8
3. The Issue of Contrast	vv. 9-12

1. The Danger Issue

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

1.) The Evil Danger of it's Size

vv. 5a

1a.) It's a Little Member, but very powerful

Even so the tongue is a little member

the “even so” is linking us back to verse 4

Just Like the Bit

Just Like the Rudder

The Bit and the Rudder

Seemingly insignificant items that in all actuality have the greatest influence!

* Member grk 3196 melos (mel'-os);
root = to make a melody, a song, a singing

Created TO PERFORM A GOOD SOUND

That was the purpose for the Original Tongue
TO SING UNTO GOD

When We Worship

we are going back to our original purpose for being created

The Christian Loves to Worship
in service / in study / in giving / in song

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Psalm 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

Psalm 8:1-2a, 3-4a

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who set Your glory above the heavens! ² Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants you have ordained praise..... ³ When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him...

1b.) Your Tongue is in fact Your Tongue

Even so the tongue is a little member

You are Responsible for it
And You will give an account for it

2.) The Danger of its Boasting

vv.5b

And it boasts great things.
See how great a forest a little fire kindles!
((See how a great forest can be set on fire by a small spark.))

2a.) It's Power at Speaking

It boasts great things

* boasts grk 5665 aucho (ow-khe'-o);
the lift up the neck. To elevate by boasting for good or bad reasons.
to make extraordinary claims. To make remarkable claims.

In David's Own Words

Psalm 150:1-6

Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty firmament! ² Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to **His excellent greatness!** ³ Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp! ⁴ Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! ⁵ Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals! ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

In Isaiah's Own Words

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; he calls them all by name, **by the greatness** of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.

In Paul's Own Words

Ephesians 1:17-19

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

For both a positive effect or a destructive effect

Psalm 34:2-3

My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

Psalm 44:8

In God we boast all day long, and praise Your name forever. Selah

1 Corinthians 1:31

that, as it is written, "He who **glories**, let him glory in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 10:16-17

to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment. ¹⁷ But "he who **glories**, let him glory in the Lord."

3.) The Danger of it's Fire

vv. 6a

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

3a.) The Tongue is Just Like a Fire

And the tongue is a **fire**,

4.) The Danger of it's Worldliness

vv. 6b

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity

5.) The Danger of it's Poison

vv. 6c

The tongue is so set among our members
that it **defiles** the whole body,

Matthew 15:16-20

So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ "Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? ¹⁸ "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹ "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. ²⁰ "These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

6.) The Danger of it's Origin

vv. 6d

And sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire **by hell**.

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members
that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature;
and it is set on fire by hell.

2. The Control Issue

2.) The Tongue Cannot be Controlled by Man

vv. 7-8

For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

3. The Contrast Issue

3.) Our Tongues Must be Healed

vv. 9-12

With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring can yield both salt water and fresh.

An Example of Healing

Mark 7:31-37

Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. ³² Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. ³³ And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵ Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Luke 6:43-45

"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ "For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 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.

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The boxer rebellion