

Faith That Works

KEEPS THE TONGUE ON A SHORT LEASH

10/07/07



Text: James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For 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. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look 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. ⁵So 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! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. 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. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.” (ESV)

The tongue is *you* in a unique way. The tongue is of great concern to James, being mentioned in every chapter of his letter.

Today....**FAITH THAT WORKS** KEEPS THE TONGUE ON A SHORT LEASH.

Q. – Why?

1. The A Factor – v.1-2

2. The “S -C” Fac-
tor – v.3-5

3. The R Factor – v.6-12

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION THOTS

Stop! Before going into the Discussion Q’s to pause and pray for those who are considered *teachers* here at KBC..... Thank you! ☺

Locate the various word pictures found in James 3. Which one connects with you as you wrestle with the need to LEASH THE TONGUE?

Look up the following passages and identify the consequence of a tongue unleashed:

Genesis 31:1-2 (Laban’s sons)
1 Samuel 22 (Doeg the Edomite)
1 Kings 21 (Naboth)
Esther (the work of Haman)
Luke 22:31ff w/ 22:54ff (Peter)
Matthew 26:59 (Jesus’ accusers)

The sins of speech affect our relationship with God, my neighbor and even our very selves. How and where? (E.g. – with God through swearing...)

Augustine once said, “....*James does not say that NO ONE can tame the tongue (v.8), but no human being; so that when it is tamed we confess that this is brought about by the pity, the help, the grace of God.*” How can such a statement be used in conversation with either another Christ-follower *OR* one who is not yet a believer in Christ?

The uncontrolled tongue has a direct pipeline to Hell. This pipeline is reciprocal. Fueled by Hell, it burns our lives with its filthy fires.

*“May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow’r controlling
All I do and say...”*