

All The Places To Go

Taming the Tongue

"Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 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. 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. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water." [James 3:1-12]

Tongue Facts

"Help me, Lord, to keep my mouth shut and my lips sealed."
[Psalm 141:3]

1. The tongue is small but extremely powerful

- The tongue is a bridle (powerful)

"When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal." [James 3:3]

- The tongue is a rudder (directional)

"...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."

[James 3:4]

If you're going to change the direction of your life, change the declaration of your lips.

- The tongue is a spark (impactful)

"Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark."

[James 3:5]

2. The tongue has been a problem since the day we were born

3. The tongue is humanly untamable

4. The tongue is twisted

How To Tame The Tongue

"Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

[Psalm 19:14]

- Think before you speak

"The heart of the godly thinks carefully before speaking; the mouth of the wicked overflows with evil words."

[Proverbs 15:28]

T - is it true?

H - is it helpful?

I - is it inspiring?

N - is it necessary?

K - is it kind?

SERMON NOTES

- Learn the value of silence

“You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”
[James 1:19]

- Speak life, not death

“Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.”
[Proverbs 12:18]