

Taming the Tongue

June 12, 2022 | Deep End Faith | James 3:1-12 | Mike Foster

- Respect the Power of the Tongue (3:1-5)

- Beware the Danger of the Tongue (3:6-8)

- Preserve the Integrity of the Tongue (3:9-12)

“Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45)

What does your tongue say about your heart?

What does your heart need from Jesus?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read James 3:1-2. Why do you think James leads into this section on the tongue with these verses?
3. According to James, if someone is unable to control their tongue, should they be trusted as a teacher? What are the implications of what James says in verse 2?
4. Read James 3:3-5. In what ways – positive or negative – have you experienced the power of the tongue?
5. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. Who is someone you know who has used their tongue to encourage you? What has that encouragement meant to you?
6. Read James 3:6-8. James uses strong language to describe the evil work of the tongue. Do you think such language is justified? Have you seen the tongue cause this much damage in your experience? Is the tongue really as big of a deal as James is making it?
7. Read some of the following Proverbs. 10:11, 10:19-21, 12:18, 13:3, 14:3, 15:1, 15:4, 16:23, 18:21, 21:23. What stands out to you in these Proverbs? Which one do you most need to hear and apply right now?
8. Read James 3:9-12. How would you summarize these verses in your own words?
9. Read Luke 6:43-45, where Jesus connects our words to our hearts. What are the implications of what Jesus is teaching here?
10. Spend some time using your words to bless one another right now. How do you see God working in each other's lives? What do you appreciate about someone else?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read Ephesians 4:29-32, Proverbs 10:19-21, 13:3, 14:3, 15:1, 16:23, Matthew 12:36-37, Luke 6:43-45.

Read “The Wise Worker Guards the Tongue”

- www.theologyofwork.org/old-testament/proverbs/the-wise-worker-guards-the-tongue-proverbs

Read “The Flammable Tongue of a Critical Spirit”

- www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2021/02/17/the-flammable-tongue-of-a-critical-spirit/

Read this classic essay by Octavius Winslow on the tongue

- www.gracegems.org/WINSLOW/The%20Power%20of%20the%20Tongue.htm

Read Watch Your Mouth by Tony Evans

Listen to “May the Words of my Mouth”

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6EkmvRxfHo