

Lesson for Midday and Evening Becoming Sessions

Topic: Taming the Tongue

Text: James 3:1-12

Lesson Central Idea

Our Tongue Shouldn't Display *Ungodliness*

Our Tongue Should Display *Godliness*

OPEN IT

- If you could hear a tape recording of everything you said last week, what would you want to edit out?
- How do you react when you hear someone cursing and using abusive language?
- How can the words of others hurt a person?
- What can you learn about a person by listening to them speak?

EXPLORE IT

- What responsibility does a teacher bear? (3:1)
- If a person were never at fault in what they said, what would that show about the person? (3:2)
- What is significant about the way we talk? (3:2)
- What is the purpose of a bit in the mouth of a horse? (3:3)
- What is the purpose of the rudder of a ship? (3:4)
- What damage can a small spark cause to a great forest? (3:4)
- What similarity does a person's tongue have to a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, and a spark of fire? (3:5)
- How did James describe the tongue? (3:6-8)
- What damage do our tongues do to us? (3:6)
- What is so difficult about taming the tongue? (3:7-8)
- Of what inconsistencies are we capable? (3:9-10)
- In what ways are we inconsistent (3:9-10)
- What illustrations from nature did James use to condemn cursing? (3:11-12)
- What can a spring or a fruit tree teach us about speech? (3:11-13)

GET IT

- What motivates a person to teach others?
- How is a teacher in the church supposed to be different from the average member?
- Why will God judge teachers more strictly than other people?
- What are the ways we sin with our speech?
- Why are sins of speech often overlooked as not serious?
- How do others around us influence our speech?

- What practical advice would you give someone who wanted to control their tongue better?
- What weaknesses in our lives does our speech often expose?
- In what times or places can your tongue be used for good?
- How can you change your daily speech to reflect its importance?

APPLY IT

- What do you need to remove from your speech habits this week to make your words more pleasing to God?
- What positive words do your family and coworkers need to hear from your mouth this week?

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BILLBOARD

Let Your Tongue Display Godliness!