James 3:1-12

Ken Chapman · James 3:1–12 · Series: **James Study**

INTRODUCTION

- James is going to tell us about the difficult task of trying to tame the tongue.
- Nothing that he says in this text should lead us to the conclusion that it is absolutely impossible.
- The bridling of the tongue is a very difficult task, but one that we must undertake if our religion is to truly profit us.

1 Let Not Many of You Become Teachers

James 3:1; Matthew 18:6–7

- My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.
- James is not forbidding someone from becoming a teacher.
- Don't take it as a position of honor. Take it as a position of responsibility.
- The teacher will not only be judged by what he does, but also by what he tells others to do, by his teaching.

2 If Anyone Does Not Stumble in Word

James 3:2–4

- If anyone does not stumble in word, he's a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.
- The most common and the easiest way that we can stumble or sin, and that is in word, in our use of our tongues.
- You can control the mouth of the horse with the bit, then you can control the whole horse.
- The ship, no matter how large, is controlled by a relatively small instrument, and that is the rudder.

3 The Tongue Is a Little Member and a Fire

James 3:5–6

- Even so the tongue is a little member, and boast great things.
- Wars have been started just by words that were spoken. Families have been destroyed. Churches have been destroyed just by some word spoken.
- The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.
- It can cause a forest fire, proverbally, by the things that we say, and the source of that fire is hell itself.

4 No Man Can Tame the Tongue

James 3:7–8

- Every kind of beast and bird, reptile and creature of the sea is tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no man can tame the tongue.
- It's an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

- Not every creature has been tamed. And the tongue can be tamed.
- Before you rush to become a teacher, you think about the power of the tongue, and you think about the tremendous difficulty to control or to tame the tongue.

5 We Bless God and Curse Men

James 3:9; Genesis 9:6; 1 John 4:20

- With the tongue, we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men who've been made in the similitude of God.
- The duplicitous nature of someone who would bless God with their tongue and then turn around and curse their fellow man.
- Since my fellow man was made in the image of God, I cannot curse him, I cannot hate him, and I cannot kill him.

6 A Spring Is Either Fresh or Bitter

James 3:11–12

- A spring is either fresh or it's bitter.
- Here James says we can tell who we are by what we say.
- Blessing God and cursing our man shows us to be a hypocrite.
- No spring can yield both salt water and fresh. You can't do it.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **When we bless God, does God accept that blessing from our mouth? Because it's consistent with the rest of our speech and the rest of our lives. Give some thought to what you say this day and this week.**

MY NOTES