Taming The Tongue

Ken Chapman · James 3:1–12

INTRODUCTION

- We've all said the wrong thing.
- There's times and ways in which you can say the wrong thing. And it's not funny at all.
- James says we can bridle, or we can tame the otherwise untamable tongue. We can do it. Or at least we should be trying to do it.

1 Say the Right Thing

Ephesians 4:25; Ephesians 4:29

- Therefore, putting away lying. Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.
- Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
- The corrupt word that's condemned here is not some cuss word. It's just some hurtful word.
- We can tame the tongue by saying the right thing. By not saying words that can cut and hurt and demean and belittle others.

2 Say It at the Right Time

- Sometimes with words, timing is everything.
- There may be times because of your own emotions that it's best not to talk right now. Because I may say the wrong thing.
- Maybe there's other people around, and this is a conversation you and I need to have just between us.
- Maybe there's times when I shouldn't say it because that person's not present, and I'm just gossiping to other people.
- Saying it at the right time. Being judicious in our speech.

3 Say It to the Right Person

Matthew 18:15

- All of this demands discipline, self-discipline. That I don't have to say every thought that comes to my mind at every instant that it comes to my mind.
- If your brother sins against you, go tell him his fault between you and him alone.
- It's far less awkward for me to talk about that person to everybody else but that person.
- But sometimes the easy path isn't the right path.

4 Say It the Right Way

Proverbs 15:1

- Sometimes we can be well-meaning and trying to say the right thing, but we need to make sure that we're saying it the right way.
- A soft answer turns away wrath. And a harsh word stirs up anger.
- I said the right thing, I thought, but I wanted to make sure that it was understood the right way.

5 Say It for the Right Purpose

Ephesians 4:29

- What's my motivation for saying what I'm going to say? Is it to help?
- Is it for edification? Am I building this person up? Or am I saying this to make me look good? Am I saying it to make you look bad?
- Pause and ask this simple question. Is this loving?
- Our conversations would probably be a lot shorter. But they'd be far more wholesome and encouraging.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If there's anyone who needs help taming their tongue, who needs prayers and encouragement to be the type of godly speakers and doers that we ought to be. Would you come right now.**

MY NOTES