

CCC HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MOUTH P8B

Developing a Faith That Works and Taking of the Lord's Supper - Read James 3:1-12

Review: WHY MUST I WATCH WHAT I SAY?

"Why must I do that you may ask? You think, "It's only words; and sometimes I am just kidding anyway. James don't be fooled, "Words are significant." Then he gives us three reasons why we have to learn to manage our mouth along with six illustrations, two for each of the points he made. The first reason he gives us on why we need to control our tongue is:

1. MY TONGUE DIRECTS WHERE I GO

It has tremendous influence over my life. It has tremendous control over my life. You want to know, where you are headed in life. You want to know, where are you going to be ten years from now? Look at your conversations. What

do you talk about the most? It works this way we shape our words and then our words shape us. James says, "*The tongue is small, it's tiny*". And because it's tiny we think it's insignificant. But it has tremendous power. Then he gives us an illustration v. 3 *Consider a bit in a horse's mouth*. You've got a stallion, 2,000-3,000 pounds, and a 95 pound jockey on his back. The jockey can control the tremendous mighty horse by a little piece of metal stuck strategically over his tongue. Likewise your tongue controls the direction of your life wherever you want to go... and a little bit of a words or a phrase can influence the total direction of your life.

Then he gives us another illustration he says, "*Consider a ship they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.*" My tongue directs where I

go. It is the steering wheel of your life. The second reason he gives us on why we need to control our tongue is:

2. MY TONGUE CAN DESTROY WHAT I HAVE

In v. 5 James gives another illustration. Imagine a beautiful forest -- tall beautiful trees everywhere. Now imagine it in one minute going up in smoke, completely destroyed instantly with a little tiny match. It only takes a spark to get a fire going. A careless camper can destroy an entire national forest overnight. A careless word can destroy a life overnight, effecting thousands of lives. Gossip is like fire. It spreads quickly and it wrecks havoc. The tongue not only has the power to direct where you go but it also has the power to destroy what you have if you don't learn to control it. The third reason he gives us, why we need to control our tongue is:

3. MY TONGUE DISPLAYS WHO I AM

It reveals my real character. It tells what's really inside of me. First James points out how inconsistent we are in our speech. He says in v. 9 *"The tongue we praise our Lord and Father and with the same tongue we curse men who've been made in God's likeness. From the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be."* We say these things out of the same mouth. We come to church on Sunday. God loves for us to praise Him in music... God loves for us to come and sing His praises in song. Then how is it we walk out, get into the car and on the way home we argue about where we're going to eat lunch. What gives here:

James gives the answer in v. 11-12. He says consider the source. *"Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce*

fresh water." The point is, whatever is in the well comes out in the water. Whatever is in the tree, comes out in the fruit. My problem is not really my tongue. My problem is really, my heart. What's inside is what comes out. We have a saying around here your only as sick as your secrets. My mouth eventually betrays what is really on the inside of me. I can fool you and pretend but eventually my tongue is going to catch me. It's going to let you know what's really inside. It reveals my true character in that season of life.

A person with a harsh tongue has an angry heart.

A person with a negative tongue has a fearful heart.

A person with an overactive tongue has an unsettled heart.

A person with a boasting tongue has an insecure heart.

A person with a filthy tongue has an impure heart.

A person with a critical tongue all the time has a bitter heart.

But in saying that I also want to share with you... a person who is always encouraging with their words... has a happy, hopeful heart. A person who speaks gently has a loving heart. A person who speaks truthfully has an honest heart. So James gives us three reasons and six illustrations why we have to learn to manage our mouth.

II. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION? How can I do this.

1. Get a new heart - You've got to get a new heart, that's the problem. Ezekiel 18:31 *"Rid yourself of all the offenses you have committed and get a new heart and a new spirit!"* Painting the outside of the pump doesn't make any difference if there is poison in the well. I can change the outside, I can even turn over a new leaf in life, but what I really need is a new life. Why, because I can't do it

myself. I can't control and tame my tongue myself. What I need is a fresh start. I need to let go of all the past and be born again. I need to get a new heart.

We'll how do I get a new heart? 2 Cor 5:17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new person. The old has passed away. Behold all things have become new."* New life, new heart, new spirit, when you come to Jesus Christ, He wipes out everything you ever done in the past. He says you're starting over but this time I am in charge, you just need to follow me. We need to pray like David prayed in Psalm 51 *"Create in me a clean heart, O God."* That's one solution, another solution is:

2. Ask God for help every day. – Surrender to Christ will for your life everyday. You can't do it... you need supernatural power to control your tongue. You can't do it on your own. Your life is a living proof of that. You and I

cannot control it on our own. We need supernatural power so we ask God to help us. Psalm 141:3 *"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."*

Wow what a great verse to memorize and quote every morning. *"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips."* Print this one out and put it on your refrigerator. What you're saying in this prayer is God, put a muzzle on my mouth. God, guard my lips. Lord, don't let me be critical today. Lord, help me not to judgmental today. When you ask God to help your saying, Lord, don't let me say things off the cuff that I then later will regret." You need to ask God for help daily... Why, because you need His power in your life to have success here. When we say ask God for help everyday that also means, getting into God's word, the bible. As you ask Him for help you need to read His word along with asking and

be open to Him speaking to you through His word, the Bible.

There is saying that goes like this, garbage in, garbage out. What goes into your mind, goes into your heart, and what goes into your heart, comes out of your mouth. Fill your mind with the word of God -- with positive things, whatsoever things that are true, pure, etc. -- think on these things. Another solution is:

3. Think before you speak – Try and do your part here...

We need to always with the Lord work with Him and try to do our part... We need to get in the habit of engaging our minds before we put our mouth in gear. James 1:19

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." There's a designation here. They go in order. First, I need to be quick to listen and then slow to speak. If you get into this habit to first be quick to listen

you will be slow to speak and if you're slow to speak, then you will be slow to become angry.

Let me ask you a question are you quick to get angry. If you have a problem with anger you need to work on being quick to listen and slow to speak. The result if you do this will be... you'll be slow to anger.

This morning, if we were to play back a tape of every conversation you've had in this past week, what would we learn about you? What does your tongue say about you? What does it reveal about you? I mean God hears it all, I don't but He does. Our tongues display to God who we are. So I ask you what direction is your tongue leading you? Some people say, "I'm just sick all the time" or they say, "I can never do anything right", or they say things like, "Things are just getting tougher and tougher" – We all do this maybe some more than others. But, let me ask you a

question... what direction are you headed by your tongue?
Our tongues control the direction of our lives like a rudder
to a ship or a bit to a horse.

James is saying to you and I right now that the only way
you'll ever get control of your tongue is let Jesus Christ
have control of your heart. Surrendering to Him everyday.
What's in your heart is going to come out in your mouth
and if your not sure will you consider allowing Christ's
hand be on your bit, let Christ hand be your rudder and let
Him direct your life.

Maybe right now today you need to ask forgiveness.
Maybe you need to go to your kids to say, "I'm sorry. I'm
inconsistent the way I talk to you many times. I know it's
confusing, sometimes I'm loving, then sometimes I'm mean
and harsh. But I am asking you today to forgive me for
those times, I'm sorry and I am going to ask Jesus Christ to

help me everyday with my tongue What are you showing
your kids, that your human. That we all stumble in many
ways. Maybe right now today, you need to apologize to
your wife or your husband. Maybe you need to say, "I'm
not as loving to you in my speech as I ought to be. I tend
sometimes to be cold and indifferent. Sometimes, I talk to
you harshly. I boss everybody around. I'm inconsistent and
inconsiderate." Ezekiel says, *"Get rid of all your offenses
you've committed and get a new heart and a new spirit."*

Prayer:

Every one of us today needed this message. Because, it's a
universal problem, some people sorry to say, never do learn
to control their tongue. If you desire to change, would you
pray this prayer in your heart right now with me? "God, I
need a heart transplant. I need a new heart and a new
spirit. Come into my life. You maybe saying this for the

first time or as a recommitment either way... just say,
"Take control of my life, Lord Jesus."

Let me also ask you this... What direction is your tongue leading you? Where are you headed in life? Where will you be ten years from now? What do you talk about the most? Because, that tells me where you're headed. My tongue can destroy what I have. I could lose it all in a minute by a few careless words, just like a cigarette dropped can destroy an entire park. Maybe some of you need to say, "God, I've been a verbal arsonist. I say things that hurt. They hurt other, they hurt my husband, my wife, my kids. I say things at work that are unkind. I'm harshest with those I love." God's word, the Bible says, that displays what is inside of you right now. That's where the change needs to take place. "God would You give me help every day? Would You put a guard on my mouth? Would

You help me to think before I speak? Lord, forgive me for the things I've said that were out of place. Help me with a new start this morning. I can't do it on my own; I need Your help. Help me to read Your Bible and fill my mind with good things."

If you have an overactive tongue, say "God would You put peace in my heart so I don't have to talk so much?

If you've been negative. Help me not to be fearful.

If you tend to brag a lot. Help me to not feel insecure.

God, melt the hard heart. Give me a caring, loving heart.

Jesus Christ, take control of the rudder of my life and guide me in the direction that You wish."

If you prayed that prayer, I want you to know something, God heard you.

Father, we all need this message. I pray that we all learn to manage our mouth. Help us; we can't do it on our

own. But by Your spirit in our lives we can have victory.
Lord, we realize that our tongue can damage but it also can
delight. What a great potential we have. Help us to use
our mouths, our tongues to bless people. God, help me to
use my tongue to bless my wife, to bless my children, to
bless the people of this church. God, there is tremendous
potential in it. Help my tongue to give light and warmth
rather than destruction and hopelessness. In Jesus' name.
Amen.

The Lord's Supper