



The Unbridled Tongue

By Ken Terry on February 28, 2022

TODAY'S READING: James 3

Today's subject, the tongue, has much controversy around it. There are so many people that allow their passions to override their logic and spiritual teaching when they speak. That, in part, is why James cautions teachers at the outset of the passage. You see, teachers have the ability to influence the thinking of others and with that, can lead them astray. Those who cause a stumble will be held accountable for their dereliction of responsibilities. Specifically the responsibility to bring up more disciples for the cause of Christ. James then gives an explanation regarding the small components used in the directing of animals and ships.

So as to the tongue, *"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell"* (James 3:5-6).

My friends, we must be intentional as to the words that come out of our mouths. The issue itself is not so much the words, but the inclinations of the heart and mind by which the rudder of the soul engages the mouth to speak. The Apostle Luke gives us great counsel in this concept, *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks"* (Luke 6:45).

Where are you in all of this? We have read, studied, and have been taught how we should live and interact among mankind. It is up to each of us to walk in the manner as we have been called. As for that little member of our body that has the ability to cause so much conflict, there is another thing it has the ability to do, *"With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude(image) of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so"* (James 3:9-10).

What will you do today? Will you bless the Father or curse men? I pray you will be a blessing, by allowing the Holy Spirit of God to lead you in this effort. You see, if you curse men, you are actually cursing the face of God because men are made in God's image. The only way we can counter this sinful inclination is by our faithfulness in prayer and personal worship time. This is how the good treasure of one heart is achieved.

In that effort, the Holy Spirit will continue to engage with you and redefine your thoughts and behaviors, in all things Jesus! This is the wisdom and understanding of spiritual life that comes from above. Therefore, let us turn our time, attention and direction to Jesus, from whence the wisdom of God is generated to mankind.

James summarizes this thought this way, *"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for them that make peace"* (James 3:17-18).

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for Jesus. We thank You, Father, for His prime example displayed for us to follow. We thank You for Your indwelling Holy Spirit that guides us and directs us as we engage with mankind on this earth. Father, we ask that You continue to feed us spiritually through Your word. Father, we pray that every inclination of our hearts will be geared towards Jesus. Then, Father, please help our words and behaviors to be reflective of His Spirit in us. We ask these things in the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: James 4

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