

James 3 - Controlling the Tongue Pt.1

November 23, 2014 AM

James 2:26

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD** also."

James 3:2

"If any man offend not in word, **THE SAME IS A PERFECT MAN**, and able also to bridle the whole body."

James 3:14-16

14 **BUT IF YE HAVE BITTER** (*bitter, harsh*) **ENVYING** (*contentious rivalry, jealousy, the fierceness of indignation*) **AND STRIFE** (*selfish ambition, contention, disputes*) **IN YOUR HEARTS, GLORY NOT, AND LIE NOT AGAINST THE TRUTH.**

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is **EARTHLY, SENSUAL, DEVILISH.**

16 **FOR WHERE ENVYING AND STRIFE IS, THERE IS CONFUSION AND EVERY EVIL WORK.**

Sins of the Tongue:

- *Gossip, Talebearing*
- *Busybody, Meddler*
- *Criticism, Slander, Condemnation*
- *Debate, Contention, Strife*
- *Lies, Deceit*
- *Manipulation, Control - flattery, intimidation, coercion*

SINS OF THE TONGUE ARE NOT DETERMINED BY CONTENT ALONE, BUT BY:

- **Motive and Spirit** (*selfish ambition, manipulation & control, self-exaltation, vengeance & revenge*)
- **Pride and Presumption** - John 8:7 "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."
- **Justification** - Am I more concerned about justice or about me?
 - "They started it, they did it first."
 - "I want to see them get what they deserve."
 - "I want them to hurt like they hurt me."
 - "I can't let them gain the advantage or win over me."

Leviticus 19:16

"Thou shalt not GO UP AND DOWN AS A TALEBEARER AMONG THY PEOPLE: NEITHER SHALT THOU STAND AGAINST THE BLOOD OF THY NEIGHBOR: I am the LORD."

John 8:3-7

3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

6 This they said, TEMPTING HIM, THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO ACCUSE HIM. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, let him first cast a stone at her.

Romans 12:19

"Dearly beloved, AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES, but rather GIVE PLACE UNTO WRATH: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I WILL REPAY, saith the Lord."

Psalm 15:1-3

1 LORD, Who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And speaketh the truth in his heart.

3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his neighbour, NOR TAKETH UP *(to lift or carry)* A REPROACH against his neighbour.

Proverbs 11:13

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

Proverbs 17:9

"He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; But he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends."

Proverbs 26:20-21

20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: So where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

1 Peter 4:15

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND THE TONGUE

James 3:1-2

1 My brethren, **BE NOT MANY MASTERS** (*teachers*), knowing that **WE SHALL RECEIVE THE GREATER CONDEMNATION**.

2 **FOR IN MANY THINGS WE OFFEND ALL. If any man offend not in word, THE SAME IS A PERFECT MAN, and able also to bridle the whole body.**

1 Timothy 3:2–3

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, **NO STRIKER**, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, **NOT A BRAWLER** (*abstaining from fighting*), not covetous;

Psalm 106:32–33

32 They angered him also at the waters of strife, So that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:

33 Because **THEY PROVOKED HIS SPIRIT**, So that **HE SPAKE UNADVISEDLY WITH HIS LIPS**.

Numbers 20:2–11

2 And there was no water for the congregation: and **THEY GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER AGAINST** Moses and against Aaron.

3 And **THE PEOPLE CHODE WITH MOSES**, and spake, saying, **Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!**

4 **And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?**

5 **And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.**

6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, **HEAR NOW, YE REBELS; MUST WE FETCH YOU WATER OUT OF THIS ROCK?**

11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

THE TONGUE CONTROLS THE DESTINY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

James 3:3-4

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and **WE TURN ABOUT THEIR WHOLE BODY**.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, **YET ARE THEY TURNED ABOUT WITH A VERY SMALL HELM**, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Proverbs 18:20–21

20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; And with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21 **DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE:** And they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Luke 6:43-45

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

44 **FOR EVERY TREE IS KNOWN BY HIS OWN FRUIT.** For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 **A GOOD MAN OUT OF THE GOOD TREASURE OF HIS HEART BRINGETH FORTH THAT WHICH IS GOOD;** and **AN EVIL MAN OUT OF THE EVIL TREASURE OF HIS HEART BRINGETH FORTH THAT WHICH IS EVIL:** **FOR OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART HIS MOUTH SPEAKETH.**

1 Peter 3:8-12

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or **RAILING FOR RAILING**: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10 **FOR HE THAT WILL LOVE LIFE, AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, and HIS LIPS THAT THEY SPEAK NO GUILE:**

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; **LET HIM SEEK PEACE, AND ENSUE IT.**

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

THE TONGUE CAN PRODUCE INCOMPREHENSIBLE DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION

James 3:5-8

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, **HOW GREAT A MATTER A LITTLE FIRE KINDLETH!**

6 **AND THE TONGUE IS A FIRE, A WORLD OF INIQUITY: SO IS THE TONGUE AMONG OUR MEMBERS, THAT IT DEFILETH THE WHOLE BODY, and SETTETH ON FIRE THE COURSE OF NATURE; and IT IS SET ON FIRE OF HELL.**

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 **BUT THE TONGUE CAN NO MAN TAME; IT IS AN UNRULY EVIL (evil without restraint), FULL OF DEADLY POISON.**

Psalms 140:1-3

1 Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;

2 Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; **CONTINUALLY ARE THEY GATHERED TOGETHER FOR WAR.**

ESV "*who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually.*"

3 **THEY HAVE SHARPENED THEIR TONGUES LIKE A SERPENT; ADDERS' POISON IS UNDER THEIR LIPS.**

Selah.