

“Beyond Sunday Morning: Taming the Tongue”
James 3:3-12
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<https://youtu.be/Hgzim5m7oU> (The Power of Words)

How can we use different words to change the world? This video has been around awhile and has been seen by more than 24 million people. I wonder if those 24 million people are changing the world through their words. I wonder today as we talk about Taming the Tongue if we will be able to change our small part of the world by changing our world.

It is not just what we say, but also how we say it. In the passage that Kelly read for us this morning....by the way....I so wish Kelly would have sung the words and not read them. Anyway, James in chapter 3 (we will discuss chapter 4 next week), talks about the danger of the tongue.

James asks some questions where there is an expected answer. Let's answer them. He asks this, “Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Xxxxx (NO) He asks, “Can a fig tree bear olives?” xxxxx (NO) Can a grapevine produce figs? Xxxxx (NO) So he says a salt pond cannot give fresh water.

You see what he is talking about is the consistency of what comes from our mouth. How is it that both blessings and cursings come from the same mouth? How can we greet someone here in church and yet cuss at someone on Monday. Oh the consistency that we need to have with our tongue and our words Beyond Sunday Morning.

A bit in a horse's mouth is small and yet guides the horse. A ship is huge but they are guided by a very small rudder. So, James says....the tongue as small as it is actually a big deal.

The tongue is an interesting part of how God created us. When our kids were younger we were sitting at the table and our oldest, Ben....he and his wife just had our grandson Bo....now I would normally show pictures here....but you saw some last week. Anyway, Ben was in high school and said that some people could stick their tongue out and touch their nose. Well.....guess what we did as a family the next several minutes....we were all sticking out our tongues trying to touch our noses. Try it....but not now. You can't do it. That's why I was surprised to hear about Adreanne Lewis. In a USA Today article in May of this year Adrienne Lewis, 18, thinks she may have the world's longest tongue. The Michigan native's tongue is 4 inches long and with her tongue she can touch her eye (with the help of her hand). (May 13, 2015, USA TODAY).

Did you know that a Blue Whale has the largest tongue? It is the size of an elephant and weighs 5400 pounds. Did you know that the strongest tongue belongs to Thomas Blackstone who lifted a 24 pound 3 ounce weight with a hook in his tongue?

And here is according to The Guinness Book of World Records is the Worlds Hardest Tongue Twister.

The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.

(Let's all say that 3 times real fast)

Now that's all fun and interesting, but here is something I did learn about the tongue: Your tongue is unique. Tongues have different shapes, sizes, and number of taste buds, and therefore your tongue print is as original as your fingerprint.

So we have each been given a tongue. Just one. It is yours. It is unique. There is not another one like it....so how are you going to use it to change the world.

In chapter 3 of James he compares it to a fire. A great forest fire is set ablaze by such a small fire so the tongue can cause great damage. So how can we tame the tongue?

James 3:7-8 ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

So who can tame the tongue? No human can. However.....I know Someone who can work with us to help tame the tongue. God created our bodies. He created our tongue He certainly can assist us in taming it.

But it is so difficult. It is easy to be nice and say good words on Sunday morning...but Beyond Sunday Morning when people are not nice to us it is difficult.

James 3:9-10 ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters these things ought not to be so.

Pretty strong words here by James...we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. Figtree produce olives...NO. Grapevine produce figs...NO. Salt pond produce fresh water...NO. And yet with our tongue we curse and bless.

The Message Bible contemporizes this passage: ¹⁰⁻¹²**My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?**

And yet we have this problem of taming the tongue. Perhaps you've heard the following saying: "Be careful of the words you say, keep them soft and sweet. You never know from day to day, which ones you'll have to eat."

Matthew's gospel writes that what comes out of the mouth actually originates from the heart. (Matthew 15:18) For it to come out it stems from what you are feeling in your heart.

We need God help to tame our tongue. Paul writes this in Ephesians.

Ephesians 4:29 English Standard Version (ESV) ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Rev. Cathy did a fantastic job talking about Grace. I listened to both of her sermons on new updated website. Are we giving Grace to those who hear? Are we giving Christ's riches who those who hear us talk, not just now, but Beyond Sunday Morning?

Are we building others up by what we say. And oh....it is so hard. I think I've done this demonstration as part of a children's moments. Have a child squeeze the toothpaste out of the tube....draw a picture. And then ask them to put the toothpaste back into the tube. Guess what. Ya ain't gonna do it. Once it is out....it is out.

In your sermon notes I want you to write the word THINK. Write it long ways....it is an acronym. Each of the letters stands for something. But it will remind us to Think before we speak.

(image)

Is it True?
Is it Helpful?
Is it Inspiring?
Is it Necessary?
Is it kind?

Wow....if it is not true and I know that it is true....then why am I saying it? THINK

If we are to be using our tongue to build one another up then is what we are saying helpful?
THINK

Is it inspiring. THINK. I'm sure all of can pull up from our memory words that were said to us that were not helpful and actually were hurtful. Wouldn't it be better to be inspiring?

Is what we are saying necessary? THINK Oh, but we like to talk even when we really don't know what we are talking about. We don't have to speak all the time.

Is it KIND? Would you want the things said about you? THINK before you speak.

Words today can change the world...once person at a time. Words come not only from the tongue and pen and pencil, but also via social media. **(Image)**

Before you post think...Pinterest, twitter, facebook, YouTube, texting, snap chat, instagram, Vine, tumblr, Google +----THINK.

Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind?

Words...posts....are important. THINK about the following words and phrases:

Peace

Hope

Love

Grace

You can do it.

I'm proud of you.

Good job.

I'm here for you.

I'm sorry.

You're forgiven.

I found this on Social Media, so I don't know who said it...but I like it.

Live and speak in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God, because they know you.

Tame the tongue.

With His tongue Jesus said the following words. You can even use the acronym THINK. Because what He said was True. Helpful. Inspiring. Necessary. And Kind.

Jesus said, "This is my body broken for you."

"This is the blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins."

True

Helpful

Inspiring

Necessary

Kind

And Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me."