



Taming the Tongue

James 3:1-12 | Thomas Slager

GROW IN FAITH

1. In *James 3:1–6*, why does James give a stricter warning to teachers? How does this shape the way you think about the responsibility of your words before God?
2. James uses images like a bit in a horse's mouth and a rudder on a ship (vv. 3–4). What do these illustrations teach about the disproportionate power of the tongue in your spiritual life?
3. With specific, practical steps, how can we begin to take steps to give the reins of our tongue over to the Lord so he can tame the tongue for us?
4. Reflect on verse 6 where the tongue is described as a "fire." Where have you seen your words either bring destruction or reflect spiritual maturity?

CONNECT IN COMMUNITY

5. In verses 7–8, James says no human can fully tame the tongue. How should this shape the way we respond to one another when someone's words hurt us?
6. Who are people in your life who used words to give life to your soul or helped form you today? Anyone willing to share an example of the opposite impact?
7. James highlights the contradiction of blessing God and cursing people made in His image (vv. 9–10). What are practical ways we can bring consistency between our worship on Sundays and our speech during the week?

LIVE ON MISSION

8. Verses 11–12 point out that a spring cannot produce both fresh and salt water. How does inconsistent speech affect our credibility when sharing the gospel with others?
9. Think about your daily environments (home, workplace, neighborhood). What is one intentional change you can make this week so your words reflect Christ and open doors for gospel conversations?