

*For every kind of beast
and bird, of reptile and
creature of the sea, is
tamed and has been
tamed by mankind. Jas*

3:7-8

No One Can Tame the Tongue

A deadly serpent its desire to strike removed
The ferocious lion turned into a “*kitten*.”
The falcon tamed to hunt for his master.
The killer whale with a rider on its back.
We tame and bend every beast to our will.

*But no one can tame the tongue; it is a
restless evil and full of deadly poison.*

James 3:8

A Restless Evil

*Restless - unstable, unsettled,
inconstant, cannot be restrained*

What we fear in a tamed animal.

They can be calm one moment

Then kill without warning the next.

So also our tongue can be kind & gentle.

The next moment poisoned and deadly.

Seems like curse mirrors sin in our heart

The BIG problem:

Instability of emotion brings different words

but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Jas. 1:14

Different words to different people. Jas 3:9

Different Words to Different People

- *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. James 3:9-10*

The BIG problem:

Instability of emotion brings different words

Different words to different people. Jas 3:9

Different words to the same people. Jas 3:11

Different Words to the Same People

- *Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh. James 3:11-12*
- *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Pr. 18:21*

A Sad Story – Blessing & Curse

Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." 16 He said, "I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. 17 "For a command came to me by the word of the Lord, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came.'" 18 He said to him, "I also am a prophet like you, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" **But he lied to him.** 1Kg. 13:15-17

Full of Deadly Poison

*They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; the
poison of asps is under their lips. Ps 140:3*

A serpents poison designed to strike CNS or blood vessels. A painful and gruesome death!

The tongue is an **emotional & spiritual** poison.

Hold tongue in same fear/awe as a deadly serpent.

The **ONE** difference: A cobra, asp or viper can be tamed while our tongues cannot.

Even our closest loved ones are at risk to the damage our tongues can inflict.

Proper attitude toward Tongue

Fear/respect terrible power of our tongue

In multitude of words sin is not lacking Pr 10:19

He who restrains his lips is wise. 10:19-20

He who has knowledge spares his words 17:27

*A fool is counted wise when he holds his
peace. 17:28*

*Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps
his soul from troubles. Pr 21:23*

*More hope for a fool than one hasty in words.
Pr 29:20*

Proper Attitude Toward Tongue

Fear and respect terrible power of our tongue

Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. 3 For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words. Ecc 5:2

Can't Bridle ... Keep it Caged

- *Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles. Prov 21:23*
- *Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Prov 29:20*
- *If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. James 1:26*

Not only a Danger to Others

- *Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."*
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A Grave Danger to Ourselves

- *For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matt 12:34-37*