

The Dangers of our Words

- *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. 4 Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.*
Jas 3:1-12

The Danger of our Words

- ***Teachers receive stricter judgment: They talk***
- *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise. 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little. Pr. 10:19-20*
- ***If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.***
- *Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Pr. 29:19*
- The Control of the Tongue: Bit in the horse's mouth
- Rudder in the ship.
- *the tongue is a little member, boasts great things.*
- Not speaking just of lying, foul language ...just talk.

The Tongue

- *In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise. 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver Pr 10:19-20*
- *He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. 28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive. Pr 17:27-28*
- *23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles. 20 Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Pr 21:23; 29:20*

The Tongue Can Dissolve Friendship

- *See how great a forest a little fire kindles! 6 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.*
- The Holy Spirit is testifying of the grave and irreversible power of the tongue. It starts fires.
- The words of the tongue can accomplish the same things in the human heart as a fire does in a forest.

The Tongue is a Fire

- *Emotions are like wood & paper - unstable*
- Love to hate, peace to strife and bitterness.
- Sowing discord between brethren
- Slander and whispering destroy friendships
- All that is left is dust, ashes and bitterness.
- *“Angry words lightly spoken,*
- *Bitter thoughts rashly stirred,*
- *Brightest links of life broken” (#394).*

The Deadly Nature of the Tongue

- Your tongue devises **destruction**, like a **sharp razor**, O worker of deceit. 4 You love all words that **devour**, O deceitful tongue Ps 52:2, 4
- Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity, 3 Who have **sharpened their tongue like a sword**. They aimed bitter speech as their **arrow**, Ps. 64:2-3;
- They sharpen their tongues **as a serpent; poison of a viper** is under their lips.; 140:3
- **Death and life are in the power of the tongue**, and those who love it will eat its fruit. Pr. 18:21

The Fiery Nature of the Tongue

- *Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and **where there is no talebearer, strife ceases**. As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is **a contentious man to kindle strife**” Pr. 26:20-21*
- *“A perverse man **spreads strife**, and a slanderer **separates intimate friends**. 29 A man of violence **entices** his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good. ... 28 A lying tongue **hates those it crushes**, and a flattering mouth **works ruin**” (Pr. 16:28-29; 26:28).*

The Unruly Nature of our Tongue

- *7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. 8 But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 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. 11 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.*

The Unruly Nature of our Tongue

- Man has attempted and succeeded to tame multitudes of animals, *beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea.*
- *Can't tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*
- We just can't always trust our tongue.
- Sometimes joking, talking without thinking, musing sharing – things are spoken that should not be said.

The Unstable Nature of our Tongue

- The Tongue itself is unstable
- *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men,*
- *Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.*
- *My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*
- Never happens in the natural realm:
- *11 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.*

- *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." Mt 12:36-37*