

Fear & Trembling

- No matter where one is born, there are dangers that parents must teach their children to fear.
- Terrain
 - Mountains – a Fall
 - Water – Drown
 - Deserts – Heat Thirst
 - Ice/Snow – Freeze
- Animals / Insects
 - Serpents
 - Predators
 - Spiders / Scorpions
 - Bees / Wasps
- Children must be trained to feel dread, fear and grave concern when confronted with a danger.
- Everything stops and all focus is on the danger.

Taming Animals

- Fangs, claws, jaws, and paws of animals are deadly and must be feared.
- This is what makes taming animals for the circus such a powerful draw.
- What we have feared our entire life is shown to be safe, yet the dread and fear remains. It is a paradox

The Spiritual Application

- *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*
- What we have been taught to fear and dread.
- A fascination and amazing paradox when tamed.
- ***But no man can tame the tongue.*** *It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Jas. 3:8*
- The same fear and dread we have felt since our youth for the dangers around us must also be felt for our tongue.
- Whenever we are speaking, we must be cautious
- There is grave danger lurking in our next words

A Restless Evil

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

What we fear in a tamed animal.

They can be calm one moment

Then strike and kill without warning the next.

So also our tongue can be kind & gentle.

The next moment poisoned and deadly.

We must learn to live with this understanding.

The Grave Danger

Instability of emotion brings different words

Love – Anger

Tenderness – Bitterness

Closeness – Jealousy

Friendship – Greed Covetness

As our emotions change (in an instant) the words of our mouth also change.

The wide chasm of Galatians 5

Gal 5:19-24

- *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
- *22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*
- *As our heart shifts from one emotion to another so also do our words shift. The tongue is a restless evil*

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 will kill the body

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

A restless evil – a deadly poison – fear / caution

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

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

Validation and Verification

- *Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity, Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword. They aimed bitter speech as their arrow, Ps 64:2-3*

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- *Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue. Ps 120:2*
- *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*
- *They sharpen their tongues as a serpent; poison of a viper is under their lips. Selah. Ps 140:3*

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." Mt 15:17-20*

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." Mt. 12:34-37*

● *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. 9 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.*

James 3:7-12