

WELL, SHUT MY MOUTH

James 3:1-12

Pastor Roy Halberg

→ Here are words to live by: “I prefer not to think before speaking. I like being just as surprised as everyone else by what comes out of my mouth”

→ THE BIG IDEA: a mature faith is marked by a controlled tongue

→ James wants us to recognize three reasons why taming the tongue matters:

1. The Tongue Has Power to D_____ James 3:1-4

2. The Tongue Has Power to D_____ James 3:5-8

3. The Tongue Has Power to D_____ James 3:9-12

SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? TAKING IT HOME!!

1. Tongue Taming 101:

- ✓ BIT A small bit controls a large animal.
Can we _____ our use of our tongue?
- ✓ RUDDER A small piece of wood steers a huge ship in heavy wind.
The tongue, though small, can create grave _____.
- ✓ FIRE A small spark unleashes a destructive force.
Do we recognize the _____ force our words can have?
- ✓ ANIMALS People can tame animals.
Can we tame our _____ and our impulsive _____?
- ✓ POISON The venom of a snake kills its prey.
Can we keep our words from _____ us and others?
- ✓ SPRING A spring can produce only one kind of water.
Is our speech a spring that's good or _____?
- ✓ FIG TREE Trees bear just one kind of fruit.
Is our speech bearing good fruit, or is it mixed with _____?
- ✓ TONGUE The tongue can be used for good or evil.
Does our speech reflect our Christian _____?

2. Beware of Lashon hara

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“we all stumble in many ways”



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“many...let not become teachers”
- The PROBLEM James ADMITS
“we all stumble in many ways”
- The PROMISE James ADVANCES
“if anyone does not stumble...”



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- Is a small part ... yet boasts great things
- Is a fire: the very world of iniquity
- Defiles the entire body
- Sets on fire the course of life
- Is set on fire by hell (“ghenna”)
- Is untameable
- Is a restless evil
- Is Full of deadly poison



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2. THE TONGUE HAS POWER TO DESTROY- v5-8
3. THE TONGUE HAS POWER TO DELIGHT- v9-12
 - A fountain
 - A fruit tree (“fig”)
 - A vine



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