

Origin

Food4Life
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Make Every Word Count

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The word 'tongue'

- ⇒ γλῶσσα (glossa)
- ⇒ A part of the body, an organ of speech.
- ⇒ The language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations.
- ⇒ Communication by use of intelligence.

The tongue is like:

1. The bit in the mouth of a horse
2. The rudder of a ship.
3. The spark of a forest fire.

The tongue can:

- ⇒ Corrupt the entire person.
- ⇒ Set the course of an entire life.

The nature of the tongue:

- ⇒ Its destructive nature is from hell.
- ⇒ No man can tame the tongue.
- ⇒ Taming the tongue happens through the in dwelling of the Holy Spirit.