

PRESSURE POINTS

A Study of the Book of James

Part 5

Watch Your Mouth

James 3:2 "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."

I. WHY MUST I WATCH WHAT I SAY?

Three Reasons

1. MY MOUTH _____ WHERE I GO.

"The tongue is a small part of the body."

v3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

"Consider a ship". "... they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go."

Romans 10:10b ...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Matthew 12:37b (NKJ) ...and by your words you will be condemned."

2. MY MOUTH CAN _____ WHAT I HAVE

v5 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.

Proverbs 18:20 (GN) "You have to live with the consequences of everything you say."

v6 "... it sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."

Proverbs 21:23 "If you want to stay out of trouble be careful what you say!"

v7-8 "All kinds of animals ... have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. (It's humanly impossible). Only God can do it. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison."

3. MY MOUTH _____ WHO I AM.

Luke 6:45 Out of the abundance of the heart a mouth speaks.

v9 "The tongue we praise our Lord and Father and with the same tongue we curse men who've been made in God's likeness. From the same mouth come praise and cursings. My brothers, this should not be."

v11-12 "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."

CONCLUSION:

- A person with a **harsh tongue** probably has an **angry heart**.
- A person with a **negative tongue** has a **fearful heart**.
- A person with an **overactive tongue** has an **unsettled heart**.
- A person with a **boasting tongue** has an **insecure heart**.
- A person with a **filthy tongue** has an **impure heart**.
- A person who is **critical** all the time has a **bitter heart**.

On the other hand:

- A person who is always **encouraging** has a **happy heart**.
- A person who **speaks gently** has a **loving heart**.
- A person who **speaks truthfully** has an **honest heart**.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Come next Sunday and find out.