



# Redeeming Notes

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## Living Out A Faith That Works "Taming the Tongue" James 3:1-12

James issues a warning to those who would be Teachers. (vv. 1-2)

Two reasons:

**Teachers will be judged more strictly.**

*"Those who teach will be judged more strictly."* (v. 1b)

**Teachers use a very dangerous and difficult tool.**

*"We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he say, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check."* (v. 2)

### Four characteristics of the tongue

A. The tongue is **influential**. (vv. 3-5a)

B. The tongue is **destructive**. (vv. 5b-6)

The tongue is...

- a world of **evil** among the parts of the body
- sets the whole **course of his life** on fire
- set on fire by **hell**

C. The tongue is **uncontrollable**. (vv. 7-8)

D. The tongue is **inconsistent**. (vv. 9-10)

### The faults of our tongues

A. Words that are obviously **sinful**

- **cursing**
- **lying**
- **slander** Proverbs 16:27
- **deception** Proverbs 4:24

B. Words **thoughtlessly and hastily spoken**

- **cutting remarks** Proverbs 12:18
- **angry remarks** Proverbs 29:20
- **spontaneous retorts** Proverbs 21:23

C. Words that can **cause damage** Proverbs 18:21

- **criticism**
- **gossip** Proverbs 20:19
- **false flattery** Proverbs 26:28

D. Words in **bad taste**

- **vulgar language** Ephesians 4:29  
Colossians 3:8

E. Words that are simply **unnecessary**

- **exaggeration** Proverbs 10:19
- **mindless chatter** Proverbs 13:3  
Proverbs 17:27  
Proverbs 18:2
- **silliness**
- **foolishness** Proverbs 18:6-7
- **levity** Ephesians 5:4

**READING PLAN:** *Meditate deeply on these connections from this week's teaching, asking yourself: 1) What does it say in general? 2) What is it directly saying to me? 3) How can I apply it in my life?*

Monday- James 3:1-12 and Matthew 12:30-37

Tuesday - James 3:1 and Matthew 23:8-12

Wednesday - James 3:2 and Matthew 12:36-37

Thursday - James 3:12 and Matthew 7:15-20

Friday - Psalm 141

### FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- 1) Describe a time when the words of another person had a lasting impact on you in either a positive or negative way.
- 2) What is it about hurtful words that makes it so hard to 'forgive and forget'?
- 3) What is one practical way you have learned to bridle and tame your tongue when you feel it is getting out of control?
- 4) What are ways we can "praise our Lord and Father" and "curse people" with our words?