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## SERMON NOTES June 21, 2020

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

### James 3:2-12 The Taming of the Tongue Pastor Mike

I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our speech

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of our tongue

a. Our words \_\_\_\_\_ to others

b. Our words \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts

c. Our words can \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

III. Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ of our words

Our words \_\_\_\_\_ and thus \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts

IV. The secret of \_\_\_\_\_ our tongue

Reformation of \_\_\_\_\_ can only happen after a

transformation of \_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. James 3:2 teaches, *"if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body."* What does he mean? What does this teach about the importance of our speech?
2. Many of us categorize sins into major and minor sins, with sins of our speech in the category of a minor sin. But James clearly teaches that sins of our speech are some of the most significant both in the degree that they demonstrate the true nature of our faith, and in the sense that they are among the most damaging sins we can commit.
  - a. Do you agree that most people see sins of our speech as more minor sins? If so, why is it that we commonly look at sins of our speech as being not very serious?
  - b. What is your initial response to James' emphasis on the significance of our speech?
3. Children say, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me." But James teaches that our words can be a spark that sets fire to a forest. In verse 6 he states, *"And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell."*
  - a. How do you respond to this picture of the destructive power of our speech?
  - b. If we really believed that our speech could be so destructive, do you think it might change the way we speak?
4. In his message Pastor Mike challenged fathers about the impact of their words upon their kids.
  - a. As you reflect upon your life, what was the impact of your dad's words – the good and/or the bad -- upon your life?
  - b. Fathers, how are you using the power of your words to give direction to your kids and grandkids.
5. Read Matthew 12:33-37. How do you feel about Jesus' teaching that we will be held accountable not only for every evil word, but for every careless word? Where are you careless in your speech?
6. Often when we sin in our speech, we use the common excuse that an event or another person caused us to say things that we didn't mean. But James, like Jesus in Matthew 12, teaches that our words always come from our heart. Jesus teaches, *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*
  - a. Do our words always come from our heart? Do our words always reveal the true nature of our heart? Are there ever exceptions? Do we ever say things we don't mean?
  - b. If our words do come from our hearts and thus reveal our hearts, what do your words spoken in anger and/or frustration reveal about your heart?
7. In verses 7-8 James teaches us, *"every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue."* If no human being can tame the tongue, then what is our hope? What is James teaching us? How can you find victory in this area of your life?