

My BIG Mouth!

1 of 4 (PART 2) | James 3:1-12 | Put a Sock in It!

SLIDE 1 Introduction

Last Sunday I introduced a new series for this month about gaining control over our mouths. Thereby we can gain control over our entire lives. That's the premise and the Scriptures prove its worth. Nevertheless I lost control of my mouth and spoke too long last Sunday, so I wasn't able to complete the first part of this four-part series. So we will call today's message Part Two of Part One, the sequel, the conclusion, the closing.

So let's review Part 1 of Part 1:

SLIDE 2 Where You Are Looking!

When it comes to change in your life a lot of it depends on where you are looking. Last week I tried to get us to focus on the things that pertain to us. I noted that you cannot change another person, except by force, and that results in a worse situation than you had to begin with. The Holy Spirit within us the true force of change in our world today. We must allow him to do his work in others as we allow him to complete his work in us.

Secondly, I shared from James chapter 3 how the Bible describes our tongues as a rudder that can direct the whole course of our lives. Therefore wisdom would say that the first thing we need to learn to control is our mouths. Then we can influence the course of our lives and the circumstances around us. Our passage in James said:

SLIDE 3 James 3:2 (NIV)² *We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.*

Yes, keeping our bodies in check is paramount in living a life that is pleasing to the Lord. Some of us are still struggling with daily Bible reading and prayer. So we ought to know that we are not keeping our bodies in check.

My blog for Monday, on our website, is about *Making Time*. The truth is, no one can "make time." All you can do is schedule it. It has to come from something else you

are doing. There is only so much time. We are all given the same amount in a day. How you use it is your wisdom or your foolishness.

SLIDE 4 Put a Bit in It!

Not only did we talk about how our mouths are rudders to our personal ships, we also saw in James how we need to put a bit in our mouths. If we can control our mouths, we can control the direction of our lives. This was what the "faith teachers" were really saying about the "positive confession" years ago.

SLIDE 5 Put a Sock in It!

Finally I ended in the middle of the message showing how James explains how even the smallest of things we say can ignite a forrest fire in our lives and consume all the work we have put in.

It's not that we don't say good things when we are in the right frame of mind. It's that we blurt out horrible things when we are not in our right minds. One moment we are saying positive things about ourselves and others, then we drift off into criticizing and complaining.

James says it this way:

SLIDE 6 *"⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.** My brothers and sisters, this should not be."*

Double-tongued means double-minded. We speak out of both sides of our mouths. In other words, when we are in the presence of those we despise, we speak graciously and would never admit our true feelings towards them. Yet, when we are away from them, we speak differently to others about them. It's scary how self-deceived we can become without the Holy Spirit's conviction and illumination.

We must learn to hear ourselves and discern the "spirit" we are speaking from. (Luke 9:55) Also we must learn to listen to the Holy Spirit's conviction towards the words we speak.

Although James continues his "tirade" throughout this the rest of chapter 3, I will end

my reflections on his words with this:

SLIDE 7 *"¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."*

This is the deception we must face if we are going to change our lives for the better. We must admit that a *"little leaven, leavens the whole lump."* (Galatians 5:9)

Thankfully, this principle works both ways. However, as a cleaner version of the old saying goes: One "Dangit!" cancels all your "Attaboys!"

Cease with any tainted words about others and yourself, and begin the process of speaking only for the benefit of others, *"that it might minister grace to them."*

SLIDE 8 Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.**"*

The KJV says, *"that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*

When it comes to tearing others down by your comments, remember, it is tearing your house down too.

Earlier in James we read this:

SLIDE 9 James 1:26 (NIV) *"Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and **their religion is worthless.**"*

We don't want our religion to be *"worthless"* do we? Then we better start watching what we say to one another and about one another. And even what we say about ourselves.

The Apostle Peter said this:

SLIDE 10 1st Peter 3:10 (NIV) *"For, **Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.**"*

Peter is quoting Psalm 34, verses 12 and 13. The KJV says "guile" for "deceitful speech," which means treachery.

Treachery is when we betray the trust of someone else in order to deceive others and garner their support against that person.

SLIDE 11 Altar Time

Have you been criticizing others? Have you been down on yourself verbally?

Let us pray for the help of the Holy Spirit to reveal and convict the speech that is tripping us up and unleashing the work of the devil in our lives and families.

It all starts with learning to control the words that come out of our mouths. Next Sunday we will talk about the creative force of our words to do good, when we bring them in line with what God's says about us through his Word.

"Well, you know what they did to me," are the first words of treachery.

END