

# Set On Fire By Hell

James 3:1-12

Sunday, October 22, 2023

1 Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.

2 Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. 4 And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. 7 People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, 8 but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. 10 And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! 11 Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? 12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

James 3:1-12

## 7 THINGS ABOUT OUR SPEECH:

### 1. What We Say Matters

36 "But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. 37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Matthew 12:36-37

2 The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. 3 Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

### 2. Words Are Powerful!

God said, "Let there be light" And there was light.

Genesis 1:3

**By the word of the LORD** the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33:6

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His power.**

Hebrews 1:3

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 18:21

The words of the godly are a **life-giving fountain**

Proverbs 10:11

### 3. Words Steer **Our** Entire Lives

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 18:21

### 4. Our Words Have the Potential to Steer **Other's** Lives Also

Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.

Luke 6:31

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

### 5. Our Words Expose the Condition of Our Hearts

...we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

James 3:2

- It's a flame of fire
- It's a whole world of wickedness
- It corrupts our whole body
- It can set our whole life on fire

- *It is set on fire by hell itself*
- *It's untamable*
- *It's restless*
- *It's evil*
- *It's full of deadly poison*
- *It's schizophrenic - has a "split mind" - not true to its true self.*

## 6. No One Can Tame The Tongue

*People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? 12 Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.*

*James 3:7-12*

*33 "Either assume the tree to be good as well as its fruit good, or assume the tree to be bad as well as its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.*

*34 "You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, express any good things? For the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart. 35 "The good person brings out of his good treasure good things; and the evil person brings out of his evil treasure evil things.*

*36 "But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment. 37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

*Matthew 12:33-37*

## 7. Only the Holy Spirit in us can tame the tongue.