

MANAGING OUR MOUTHS - Part II

Reference: **James 3:1-12**

Pastor Larry Webb

James uses three pairs of word-pictures in order to illustrate the incredible importance of our tongue.

Pair number one is found in **verses 3, 4, and 5a.**

Pair one is the **bit** and the **rudder**, and this pair illustrates that the tongue is able to _____ and _____.

Pair number two is found in **verses 5b–8.**

This second pair is the **fire** and the **beast**, and this pair illustrates that the tongue is able to _____ and _____ domestication.

verse five, “...See how great a forest a little fire kindles!”

verse six has the strongest statement in Scripture on the danger of the tongue, “*And the tongue is a fire...*”

Reference: **Proverbs 16:27** (see screen)

Our tongue is as a fire, and using that analogy, James presents four major elements of the tongues danger.

First, the tongue is “...a _____ of iniquity”

Second, “...The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the _____”

Third, the tongue “...sets on fire the _____ of nature.”

Fourth, the tongue “... is set on fire by _____.”

James used an interesting term for hell. It is the Greek word “*Gehenna*”. This term literally means *Valley of _____*”, which was a deep gorge southwest of Jerusalem, where trash, garbage, and the bodies of dead animals and executed criminals were dumped and continually burned.

verse seven, “*For every kind of beast and of bird, of reptile and creature of the sea is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind.*”

verse eight, “*But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*”

This word, “**unruly**” means “_____ or _____”.

Reference: **Matthew 12:36, Proverbs 17:27, 28; Proverbs 10:19** (see screen)

It's almost always best to remain silent in certain situations and here are some of those occasions:

- when we are tempted to say “I _____”
- when we are _____
- when a friend's personal situation would make an outstanding point in the conversation, but we don't have _____ to share it
- when we are tempted to _____ someone on a minor point as this person relates a story or experience
- when someone hasn't asked for our _____
- when we are tempted to tell something about ourselves in order to _____ someone
- when we have information that might unnecessarily _____ someone

Pair number three is found in **verses 9-12.**

This third pair is the **spring** and the **tree** and this pair illustrates that the tongue is able to demonstrate _____ behavior.