

## Lessons For The Church Lessons For You!

*“Sticks and Stones”*

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

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Chapter three finds warnings about the destructive power of our words and the terrible danger we find. Along with this stern warning is some teaching of a spiritual father showing us that there is hope. OUR mouths can be mastered!

References: **Matthew 12:34b; Proverbs 1:16; 1 John 2:16**

James has taught us so far that words are empty if they are not followed by works. The faith is evidenced by the works. However, in each of the chapters of this letter James speaks of our words. So that we will not be mistaken that words don't matter, James addresses the fact that the mouth has the ability to either build or break.

We have such an opportunity to be agents of healing and reconciliation and the power often flows through our words. So, we know that in light of faith words are cheap. However, in light of our commission the task Jesus has given to His bride the church is to communicate healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus' name.

### I. Wise Warning for Teachers and Preachers (vs. 1)

A) Make sure your motives are pure.

Reference: **Matthew 23:5-7**

B) Make sure it is ministry minded.

Reference: **Jeremiah 20:9; Ephesians 4:29, 11-12**

### II. The Powerful Working of the Tongue

A) Its ability to display (vs. 2)

B) Its ability to direct (vs. 3-5)

Reference: **Proverbs 18:21**

C) Its ability to destroy (vs. 5-6)

D) Its ability to develop

### III. The Purpose the Tongue was Designed for (vs. 9-12)

A) Communication of the Gospel

Reference: **Matthew 28:19-20**

B) Glorification of God (vs. 9)

Reference: **Hebrews 13:15**

C) Edification of God's Church

References: **1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14; 1 Peter 4:11;**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

### IV. Practical Helps for the Tongue

A) Surrender your will to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

B) Specific prayer time to the area of greatest difficulty.

C) Set a guard over your mouth.

References: **Psalms 141:3; Proverbs 21:23**

*“Aside from the abiding power of the Holy Spirit, “no man can tame his tongue.” You must be born again to have the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*It can only be tamed by a perfect man, Jesus.*

*Allow Jesus to control your tongue then you will communicate the good news, glorify God, and edify His body.”*

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