

ARE YOU TONGUE TIED ?

Int.

1. Aim: To emphasize the necessity of controlling the tongue.
2. Jas. 3:1-12
3. The ability to talk, if not abused, is a great blessing.
4. Theme of James is an "active faith"
 - a. Genuine faith is Reflected in the proper use of the tongue - Jas. 1:26 " If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."
 - b. Jas. 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."
5. This passage in James 3 views the tongue in 3 ways:
 - (1) The power of the tongue
 - (2) The need to tie the tongue
 - (3) The correct use of the tongue
6. Tongue - Illustration " I can keep from swearing"

A lad in Boston, rather small for his age, worked in an office as an errand boy. One day his employers were chaffing him about being so small and said, "You will never amount to much; you are too small.

The lad looked at them and said, "Well I can do something which none of you four men can do." "What is it?", they asked. "I don't know that I should tell you," he replied. They were eager to know and urged him to tell them what he could do that none of them was able to do. "I can keep from swearing and cursing," said the little fellow. That ended the conversation.

Discussion

I. THE POWER OF THE TONGUE - James 3:1-4

- A. Teachers can, through misuse of the tongue, discourage and condemn
 - 1. Teachers can condemn themselves - Gal. 1:6-9
 - 2. They can cause condemnation - 2 Thes. 2:10-12
 - 3. Some people may reject the truth because of false teachers - 2 Pet. 2:1-4
 - 4. Why? Because the tongue is so powerful - it can do good or evil
- B. If one can control the tongue he should be able to control the whole body - Jas. 3:2
 - 1. If one can control the most unruly part, he should be able to control the whole body
 - 2. Need of controlling the body - 1 Cor. 9:27 "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
- C. Two illustrations to show that the control of the tongue controls the body
 - 1. Horse - can be controlled by bits
 - 2. Ship - can be controlled by the rudder
 - 3. Application - the small tongue controls our destiny

II. THE NEED TO TIE THE TONGUE - Jas. 3:5-8

- A. The tongue is like a "fire" - a destructive force - v. 6
 - 1. The tongue can:
 - a. Break up a home - Start a run on a bank
 - b. Break up friends - Ruin a reputation
 - 2. Evil speech originates in hell- Jas 3:6

B. The Tongue is a Poison - Jas 3:8

1. The fire is an open force - but the poison is a hidden force
2. Gossip, slander, and backbiting are "poisons"

C. The nature of the tongue is that it is not tamed - Jas. 3:7,8

1. Refrain tongue - 1 Pet. 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:"
 - a. Re = back, Frenum = bridle, bridle back the tongue
 - b. Refrain = "to restrain a thing or a person from something" [Thayer]
2. Prov. 10:19 "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."
3. Prov. 17:27 "He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit"
4. We can never so tame the tongue that all restraint can be removed - Jas. 3:7-8

III. CORRECT AND INCORRECT USE OF THE TONGUE - Jas. 3:9-12

A. Correct use

1. Bless God, don't curse Him - Job. 2:9-10 "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. 10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."
2. Pray - Jas. 1:5 Jas. 5:16-18
3. Say "if the Lord wills..." Jas. 4:13-17
4. Sing - Eph. 5:19,20 Heb. 13:15
5. When used in the correct way the tongue can do much good !

B. Incorrect use

1. Lying - lies destroy lives of other people - Rev. 21:8 - "A lie is a coward's way of getting out of trouble."
2. Profanity - profane - dirty and filthy language hurts the speaker and hearer
3. Gossip - talebearer Prov. 18:8 The words of a talebearer [are] as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
4. Murmuring - complaining - grumbling
5. Unjust criticism
6. Flattery - Ps. 12:3
7. Evil speaking - Eph. 4:31
8. Whispers - Rom. 1:29
9. Backbiting - Rom. 1:30
10. Boasting - Rom. 1:30 - "When you sing your own praise you get the tune too High"
11. Deceit - Rom. 3:13
12. Reviling - 1 Cor. 6:10 - Scornful
13. Foolish talking - Eph. 5:4 - silly talk - buffoonery
14. Jesting - Eph. 5:4 - witty in a vulgar sense
15. Blasphemy - Col. 3:8
16. Filthy speech - Col. 3:8
17. The incorrect use of the tongue causes much hurt and damage.

C. **Eph. 4:29-32** is good advice on how to control the tongue.

1. No corrupt communication - But that which is good - edifies
2. All the bad speech put away
3. Be kind to one another

Conclusion

1. Our prayer should be -Ps. 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."
2. If you would keep your lip from slips - five things observe with care:
 - a. To whom you speak
 - b. Of whom you speak
 - c. How you speak
 - d. When you speak
 - e. Where you speak
3. Jas. 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"
4. Are you tongue tied? We all must control our tongue if we expect to reach heaven.
5. Mt. 12:37 "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."
6. Are you controlling your tongue ?

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