

The Untamable Beast

James 3:1-12

September 17th, 2025

Theme: The speech of a professing believer will reveal the true condition of his heart.

James shares three warnings about the tongue, that should cause us to closely examine our speech:

I. The Tongue is Powerful (vs. 1-4)

II. The Tongue is Evil (vs. 5-8)

III. The Tongue is Inconsistent (vs. 9-12)

Small Group Questions

1. Why does James say in verse 1 that not many people should aspire to be teachers? How does this fit in with the rest of this passage? How can you apply this verse, even if you do not want to formally teach?
2. If the tongue is more difficult to control than a wild animal, how much time ought you devote to evaluating your speech? To confessing sins of speech? To praying for greater discipline of speech?
3. What does it mean to “curse men” in vs. 9-10? Is this something we can struggle with in the 21st century? What are some practical manifestations of this sin that you may be tempted to, and how should we fight them?
4. What are some examples of biblical wisdom in the Old Testament (i.e. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Psalms) that relate to our speech? What sins of tongue do these passages speak of? What virtues in regards to our words should we seek to put on?