



Life Group Questions *Faith Tames the Tongue*

James 3:1-12

February 12, 2017

If your lips you would keep from slips, Five things observe with care: To whom you speak; of whom you speak; And how, and when, and where.

William Norris, 1396¹

"We all stumble in many ways..." (James 3:2)
But who can control the tongue?

Today's lesson has to do with human speech. The Bible has much "to say" about how we should speak.²

- Can you think of any Biblical examples where someone said too much?³ What about too little?
- When is it right to speak?
- When should we hold our tongues?
- What determines whether or not we should speak up? Can you establish some criteria for when to speak and when to remain silent?
- Can you think of a time in your life when someone said just the right thing? What was it? Why was it just the right thing?
- Can you think of a time in your life when someone said too much?
- Of the two, which one has more occurrences? What does that tell us?

Please read aloud and discuss...

- Matthew 12:33–37
- Ephesians 4:29–32
- Psalm 63 – as an antidote for *parched lips*.

What are some practical tools we could use to help us tame the tongue and steward our words carefully for the glory of God, furtherance of the Gospel, and edification of others?⁴

In this day and age, would one's speech be limited to one's tongue? If not, what are some other mediums we should ***reign in***?

- How might we slip with our use of social media?
- Is there a proper use of social media? If so, what is it?
- What are some potential boundaries we could place upon ourselves to rightly steward the technology of social media and prevent it from becoming either an obsession, self-glorification, or an ungodly social outlet?

Bonus: Contrasting bitter and sweet—a Theology of Honey

- Please look up Proverbs 16:24, Song of Solomon 4:11, Proverbs 24:13–14, Psalm 119:103, Psalm 19:10 (in that order).
- What does God connect to sweetness?

FOOTNOTE:

¹ Michael P. Green, *1500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 378

² The idea of keeping the tongue in check is found often in Proverbs (Prov 9:8–9; 10:8, 14, 19; 11:9; 12:18; 13:13; 15:1; 16:21; 17:7; 18:6–7; 21:23), so the control of the tongue as the key to the rest of one's being is a common emphasis in Wisdom Literature. Grant R. Osborne, "James," in *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: James, 1–2 Peter, Jude, Revelation*, ed. Philip W. Comfort, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2011), 69.

³ Job's Friends. Peter to Christ (Matt 16:23).

⁴ Stop and T.H.I.N.K.

- Is it Truthful?
- Is it Helpful?
- Is it Inspiring?
- Is it Necessary?
- Is it Kind?

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