**Taming the Tongue**

 “Controlling the tongue before it controls you!”

**Text**: **James 3:1-6**, “Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2**For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3**If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4**Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5**So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things! **6**And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **English Standard Version**

*Controlling the tongue before it controls you requires you to*…

**Point #1**: **Remember**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.1-2**

*Controlling the tongue before it controls you requires you to*…

**Point #2**: **Recognize** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.3-5a**

*Controlling the tongue before it controls you requires you to*…

**Point #3**: **Respect** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.5b-6**

**Corollary Verses**: Revelation 22:18-19; Acts 17:1-9; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12; Luke 12:48; Romans 7:18; Matthew 12:36-37; Acts 27:37; and Proverbs 18:21

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1.) **Read James 1:19-21 and Proverbs 21:23** then answer the following questions. What does James mean by being slow to speak? According to Galatians 5:23 how are you able to “hold your tongue?”

2.) **Read Revelation 22:18-19 and Acts 17:1-9** then answer the following questions. How do both of these passages limit a teacher’s words? How does the text limit or constrain your words?

3.) **Read Matthew 12:36-37** and answer the following questions. Think back to a time when you spoke to someone you love and wounded that person with your words. What did you say? Did you realize that you were accountable to God for your words? Now that you know that you must give an account for every careless word, how will this knowledge change your behavior? What about saying things under your breath when you think no one can hear?

4.) **Read Matthew 15:17-18** and answer the following questions. According to this passage where do evil words originate? What kind of issue is it? How do you address it?

5.) **Read Isaiah 6:6** and answer the following questions. How did Isaiah view his people? If his eyes what was their primary sin? How does this affect your view of our culture?