

August 23, 2020

**Key Verse:**

[James wrote,] Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. (James 3:10)

Watch Your Tongue

James wrote a letter to believers. Today's Scripture text contains words similar to these:

My brothers, not many of you should become teachers. You know that those who teach will be judged more strictly than others. We all make mistakes. If there were a person who never said anything wrong, he would be perfect. He would be able to control his whole body. We put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey and control them. The same is true of a ship. Even though ships are large, a small rudder controls them. This is also true for the tongue. It is a small part of the body. The tongue can be dangerous like a fire that controls your entire life.

People have been able to tame every kind of animal, but the tongue is hard to *tame* (control). We use our tongues to praise God, but then we may talk badly about or to others. It should not be this way. Fresh water and salt water cannot flow from the same spring. A fig tree will not produce olives, and a salt spring will not produce fresh water. So, we should speak good things, not bad.



Words Matter



Saturday and Sunday used to be safe days because Jamal was not in school. But now, even on the weekends, he was being bullied.

"Dad, can we talk?" Jamal asked.

"You look so serious. What's going on?" Dad questioned.

"Well, some of the kids at school are being mean to me and a few other boys. I wasn't going to say anything because at least I had the weekends without any trouble. But now, they are sending mean messages on our group chat through my game system," Jamal explained.

"Son, you should have said something sooner, but I'm glad you are telling me this now," Dad said.

"I hear people say, 'Sticks and stone may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.' But, Dad, that's not true," Jamal responded tearfully.

"You're right, Jamal. Words matter and they do hurt. But words can also heal. I'm sorry you are going through this. Mom and I will talk to your teacher on Monday. We will also reach out to some of the parents to stop this behavior," Dad commented.

"Thanks, Dad. No matter what, you *always* say the right words," Jamal noted.

Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab



Hello, everyone! Ruby here! In today's Bible lesson, we heard that our tongues are small yet powerful. From a science point of view, there are many things to learn about the tongue. Have you ever noticed that the top part of your tongue is rough and bumpy? That's because it's covered with bumps called papillae (puh-pil-ee). Those bumps help the tongue to grip food. Our taste buds are also there. They can detect sweet, sour, bitter, and salty flavors. We are born with about ten thousand taste buds, but as we get older, some of our taste buds die. To learn more fun facts, visit <https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/tongue.html>. Don't forget to get your parents' permission!

Fix That Phrase!

Oops! There seems to be a word out of place in each of the sentences below. Read through the sentences and/or phrases below (which are pulled from today's Scripture passage). See if you can find the misplaced word and move it to where it belongs in the statement. Put a circle around the misplaced word and then draw a line to where it should go. (You may use your NIV Bible.) Refer to the example below.

Example: "No human can tame the being tongue."

1. The tongue is a part of the small body, but it makes great boasts. (verse 5a)
2. Out of the mouth come praise and same cursing. (verse 10a)
3. Can a tree bear olives, or a fig grapevine bear figs? (verse 12a)
4. Anyone who is at fault in what they say never is perfect. (verse 2b)



Be Careful What You Say!

Read the sentences below. If the statements or questions are *positive* (good), draw a smiley face. If the statements or questions are *negative* (bad), draw a sad face. Be prepared to tell why you chose each answer.

1. Do you need any help cleaning up? Work is easier when two people work together.	
2. Go away and leave me alone. You are always bothering me!	
3. That is such an ugly outfit. Why would you wear that to school?	
4. You did such a good job on your spelling test. Will you help me study next time?	
5. You're not my friend!	
6. I'm glad we are friends.	

