



## “The Inflamer”

Our Tongue (Part 2 of 3)

James 3:5-8

The next several weeks we will look at the Tongue and see that it is: The Influencer (1-4); The Inflamer (5-8); and The Informer (9-12).

*In our passage today the tongue is compared to a fire. Is fire really dangerous? They say in London on one evening during WWII bombs took out over a million books. The Chicago fire of 1871 was started by what? A spark in someones barn. 17,500 buildings burned, 100,000 left homeless, 400 million dollars damage, and 300 lives lost. The tongue is a fire and it is costly in the damage it reakes.*

*We must be aware of the :*

### I. Conditions – “Behold how great a matter” (v. 5)

*The situation involves the :*

A. **Micro** – “the tongue is a little member “

B. **Mega** – “how great a matter...kindleth”

### II. Contamination - “it defileth” (v. 6)

*The speech effects Our :*

A. **Fitness** – “the whole body”

B. **Future** – “the course of nature”

C. **Fragrance** – “set on fire of hell”

### III. Contradiction - “hath been tamed ” (v. 7-8)

*The skillful use is :*

A. **Learned** – “tamed of mankind ”

B. **Lost** – “can no man tame”

C. **Lethal** – “full of deadly poison”

## Conclusion: The Words Can Heal Pledge

### Would you take this pledge?

- I pledge to think more about the words I use.
- I will try to see how gossip hurts people, including myself, and work to eliminate it from my life.
- I will try to replace words that hurt with words that encourage, engage and enrich.
- I will not become discouraged when I am unable to choose words perfectly, because making the world a better place is hard work.
- And I am pledging to do that, one word at a time.

EXEGESIS

- Even so = Let me elaborate
- The tongue is a little member = “micro” is the word here
- How great a matter = “mega” is the word here
- Fire = heat, power, danger
  - *“ninety percent of the friction of daily life is caused by the wrong tone of voice.” Francois de la Rochefoucauld*

#### ILLUSTRATION : GASOLINE ON WATER

V. 6

- Tongue is a fire = direct comparison
  - Similie = like or as = indirect comparison
  - Metaphor = He’s a hog = direct comparison
- World of iniquity = the whole realm of evil can be contacted and conducted by use of the tongue.
- That defiles the whole body = It has such an important role in the body that it can use that important position to defile the whole body.
  - **Matthew 15:11 - Not that which entereth into the mouth defileth the man; but that which**

**proceedeth out of the mouth, this defileth the man.**

- Setteth on fire the course of nature = Our lives are set on a course by the words we speak = self fulfilling prophecies as convincing others who we are and what we are all about (the resume/
- Is set on fire of hell = gehenna = the burning of rubbish ...terrible to be around and to try to clean off you when you leave. Literally that hell or the dark underworld has an influence on your tongue.

v. 7

- For every kind of :
  - Beasts = trained to be a worker not a destroyer (horse, oxen)
  - Birds = trained to be a communicator not a polluter or pest ( pigeons, parrots)
  - Serpents – trained to entertain and not to intimidate (Dancing cobra, Santa’s Hallimagators that pull his piroe in to the bayou.
  - Things of the sea = trained to rescue and entertain ( dolphins, whales)

- Tamed of mankind = “we have trained them from time to time” we can train them, probably with our tongue, but we can not train our tongue.

v. 8

- But. = Contrast
- The tongue no man can tame = we can not ever totally say we have tamed it and it will never fail us again.
- An unruly evil = that which defies taming and the wildest beast ever found. Like a horse that refuses to be broken.
  - *“The tongue is a twisty thing.”*  
Homer
- **Full of deadly poison**
  - **Our words kill:**
    - *Enthusiasm*
    - *Hope*
    - *Praise*
    - *Opportunities*

- ***Ps. 106:32-33 – Moses is said to have poisoned his going into the promise land because he lost his temper and spoke rashly.***

*More Verses on the Inflaming Tongue*

*Psalms 141:3-4*

*Colossians 4:6*

*Matthew 12:34*

*Proverbs 26:20-21*

*Proverbs 15:1*

*Proverbs 12:22*

*Proverbs 21:23*