

## The Mighty Tongue

James 3: 3 – 12

- I. The Intrinsic Power of the Tongue, vv.3 – 5a
  - A. Bits in the mouth of horses
  - B. Steered by a very small rudder
  - C. Tongue is a small part of the body
  
- II. The Destructive Power of the Tongue, vv. 5b - 6
  - A. Set on fire by a small spark
  - B. Inflammatory capability
  - C. Set on fire by hell
  
- III. The Uncontrollable Power of the Tongue, vv. 7,8
  - A. Seen a lot of animals tamed but. . .
  - B. True of all of us
  - C. Tongue is deadly
  
- IV. The Revealing Power of the Tongue, vv. 9 – 12
  - A. A contradictory phenomenon
  - B. Be honest
  - C. So what?

### Definitions:

1. Beguilement: quickly reaching a wrong conclusion, sharing your false assumptions with those who will listen.
2. Deceit: “facts” rearranged to distort the truth, manipulate, self advancement, self-protection.
3. Lying: direct communication of non-truth.
4. False witness: those who bear false testimony against another person, often for some personal gain
5. Gossip: secret attacks (whisperings) on a person’s character, from one to another
6. Slander: the open, intentional sharing of damaging information.... To defame or strip someone of his personal character (Jas. 4: 11, 12)
7. Boasting: vain conceit, a “wandering quack”, braggart.
8. Flattery: the act of manipulatively placing someone in debt to us by verbally commanding some action in his life
9. Exaggeration: lying about details to make information more interesting or sensational.
10. Murmuring: form of complaining that harbors a negative attitude toward a situation or the people involved, griping, critical spirit, grumbling.
11. Contentious: creates strife, resentment, and division in relationships.
12. Sensuous speech: expressions of immoral words, phrases, stories, or jokes, filthiness, silly talk, coarse jesting  
Ephesians 5: 3 - 12