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**Taming The Tongue**

**Big Idea of the Series:** This 3-week serieswill cover what the Bible teaches about controlling our tongues so that we do not speak evil against others or ourselves. How important truth, motives, and proper attitudes are in our speech, and how can we do some of these effectively without harming anyone or sinning.

**Week 1**

**Text:** James 3:5-10, Proverbs 18:21

**Topic:** Taming our Tongue

**Big Idea of the Message:** We must speak life into others as well as ourselves. How can we accomplish this and what course of actions does Scripture say that we need to take?

**Sermon Ideas and Talking Points:**

1. **The Power of Our Words:** *James 3:5-10: “The tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. Brethren, these things ought not to be so.”*

Our sin nature and the enemies of God want to use our tongues to not lift one another, but to demolish those around us. **Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. That is one of the biggest lies in life that we learned in first grade. Sticks and stones may break our bones, but harsh words from those we love will hurt and kill us.** **We must speak life.** It hurts so much more when it comes from people that we care about most and all of us have done this at times in our relationships.

Here is good object lesson on the power of words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdQNwu-8wrc>

The tongue is causing much more division in the Body of Christ than any other weapon in Satan’s arsenal. The devil’s deceptive tongue helped usher sin into humanity. Hitler used the tongue to flame the fire of World War II. The tongue has deceived people into believing all kinds of idolatries, abortion, sexual sins, greed, and evolution; made to believe all are “normal” in modern life. People are emotionally and mentally controlled and abused by words.

1. **The Tongue Can Destroy or Edify**: People leave marriages, families, jobs, churches and even kill themselves because the power in someone’s words has devastated them. We can praise God with our lips at church and then use them to butcher our family on the way home. *Proverbs 18:21: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”* God knows every motive behind every word that we speak!

Let’s take a quick look at Abraham and see how he spoke life instead of death into a situation that humans would say is impossible. *Romans 4:18-25: “Against all hope, Abraham in hope (Abraham hoped when all hope was lost!) believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised. Therefore “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”*

There is power in what you say – Abraham spoke life into what was perceived as dead. *Romans 10:17: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

*John 6:63: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.”* Speak God’s Word in your life and into those around you. We live in a world where sarcasm, negativity, putting others down to puff up, disobedience, hatefulness in every aspect of government, business and society is the norm today. Speaking life is being eaten away by the cancer of negativity and sin from the power of the tongue.

**Message LifePoint:** There is a story about a group of frogs that were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit with all their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell and died. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it OUT. You see this frog was deaf, unable to hear the others plea. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

Moral of the Story: An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through their circumstance. A destructive word to someone who is down can be all it takes to destroy them. Be careful and very mindful of what you say. Speak Life to those who cross your path.

**Taming The Tongue**

**Week 2**

**Text:** Psalm 34:1, Psalm 56:3, & Proverbs 10

**Topic:** Taming our Tongue

**Big Idea of the Message:** If we will continually speak Godly things over our life and the lives of others, we will see a change, because our negativity from speaking death will bring about new outlooks and life-giving opportunities in God. We will truly start speaking life through the power and words of the Bible.

**Sermon Ideas and Talking Points:**

1. **Bless with Your Words:** *Psalm 34:1: “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* So, how do we bless the Lord?
2. “I Will”, not I might, or maybe I can. **I Will (yes be yes, no be no).**
3. Submitting to Him – Giving undivided attention/Christ 1st in all things
4. Wanting to know Him more/building our relationship with Him
5. Giving our life to Him/a living sacrifice
6. Obedience to/Seeking His will/Listening to Him and doing His will

*James 3:4-5 says: “Take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.”* **Will you fan the flames or extinguish the fire? Will you bless or curse?**

1. **Trust God with Your Words**: *Psalm 56:3: “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.”* Don’t say you’re afraid...that is negative, speaking death...fear is of the devil... When you feel fear, anxiety, worry rise up in you…speak “My trust in God is greater than any fear. Fear was defeated at the cross.”

*Hebrews 13:5-6: “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So, we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*

*“*In Proverbs 10, we find seven characteristics of the lips of the righteous. When we refrain from critical and negative speech, we must replace it with uplifting, positive, and grace-filled words. Think about the words you speak. Are they uplifting and do they bring life to others? Ask God to help you evaluate your speech as you read these verses:

* *A fountain of life - “The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked” (verse 11).*
* *Discerning lips - “Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment” (verse 13).*
* *Holds his tongue - “When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise” (verse 19).*
* *Choice silver - “The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value” (verse 20).*
* *Nourishes many - “The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment” (verse 21).*
* *Brings forth wisdom - “The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out”  (verse 31).*
* *Knows what is fitting - “The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse” (verse 32).”* – Debbie Przybylski

**Message LifePoint**: The greatest victory in life - your greatest victory; it comes when you give up, that is, when you die to yourself and give yourself to Jesus Christ. The Christian life is not always easy, but it is easier ... IF YOU’LL REMEMBER YOU’RE DEAD to this world and now living for heaven. What is spoken in heaven? LIFE! Glory, majesty, holiness, perfection, power, beauty, might and love. We must speak the same in this fallen world because of the perfect that the Holy Spirit has brought in us. That Jesus gave to us on the cross of Calvary!

**Speak Life: Taming Our Tongues**

**Week 3 - Conclusion**

**Text:** Psalm 139:14, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 18:1, & Colossians 4:6

**Topic:** Taming our Tongue

**Big Idea of the Message:** Being a blessing by the power of our words. Speaking life into all things and all situations. Using our words to build and not break down; using our tongues for their intended purpose – to praise God and to preach His gospel!

**Sermon Ideas and Talking Points:**

1. **Praise, Please and Love God with Your Words**: *Psalm 139:14: “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”*

a. It gets easy to praise Him.... when you know the Creator, who made you!

b. It gets easy to praise Him - when you know the Savior who saved you!

c. It gets easy to praise Him - when you know the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you!

d. It gets easy to praise Him - when we get all 3 for the price that was paid by One on the cross!!!

*Psalm 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”*

* We please Him by living accordingly to what His Word says.
* We please Him by telling others about Him

*Psalm 18:1: “I will love You, O LORD, my strength.”*

God desires your love – give it all to Him!

1. **To Fix Our Tongues, We Must Correct Our Hearts**: To correct our speech, we must first correct our hearts. We correct our hearts by repenting and asking God to correct us. As our Lord Jesus said, that what the mouth speaks depends upon the condition of the heart.

*Ephesians 4:29: “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”* We improve ourselves and others by imparting God’s given grace - that is to build us and others up and help them be right according to God's Word.

There are times when the sins and problems of others should be discussed. Sinners must be rebuked, and other people who may be involved must be warned to avoid being harmfully influenced by sin. But all should be done in love and in truth like Jesus and His Apostles did it.

Every time we speak negatives or death in life, we add another brick to the wall around our heart. The more bricks you add (the more death you speak) – eventually what happens to your heart? You have built a stronghold of disapproval around it and quench the Holy Spirit from working in your life. Your words are who you are and who and where you will be for eternity. We speak life or we speak death. We confess Christ or we reject Him.

**Message LifePoint**: *The power of words - A true story*

*Two girls got on a bus and they started talking to each other. “Did you hear that Sarah got engaged yesterday?” “No, I never knew that!” “That’s amazing that Sarah got engaged!!” “But she is so sloppy and unorganized! How is she going to run a household?” “She is never on time. Also, she cooked for us once and her food was terrible! Her new husband is going to starve!!” “She spends money faster than she receives it. How will she get through the month?” So, it went, on and on and on.*

*Behind the two girls was another lady who suddenly spoke up. “I am sorry to interrupt you girls, but I wanted to introduce myself. My son just got engaged to Sarah. Now that I know this information, I will tell my son everything that you said about Sarah and he must break off the engagement immediately. I will also tell all my friends how grateful I am to you girls for letting me know what Sarah is really like”. The girls were shocked. They started to stutter and struggled to find the right words.*

*“No, no” they said with trepidation. Please do not let your son break the engagement.” “Sarah is wonderful! She will make a great mother! She really will!” “She is so warm, friendly and caring”. “We were just talking. We never meant her any harm”. “Please don’t break the engagement” they pleaded. However, the woman was adamant.*

*“Thank you, but based on what you said, I will make every effort to break it up as soon as possible. The girl you described sounds like a terrible person. I will inform my son immediately.” The girls were horrified and crushed.*

*After a short silence, the lady turned around to the girls and said “I am not the boy’s mother, but imagine if I was? Do you know the damage you could have caused to this couple? You almost destroyed a potential family just because you had nothing else to talk about?” “Words either build or destroy, use them wisely” the woman said sternly and with that she got off the bus.*

Speak life to those you love. Speak life to those who you don’t but should love. Speak life to those who are saved and to those who are lost. Christians need to work diligently to maintain proper attitudes and proper speech. God spoke everything into being and gave us His Word to live by. *Colossians 4:6: “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”*

We need to pray as David did in *Psalms 141:3: "Set a guard, O lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips."* Picture every word that comes out of your mouth with the word “love” attached to the end of it. Speak Life, not death.