

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2017

FAITH IN ACTION: #5: TAMING THE TONGUE

INTRODUCTION

How do you react when you hear someone cursing or using abusive language?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read James 3:1-6

1. Why does James warn people not to become teachers? **Lk 20:46-47**
2. Why do you think teachers will be held to a higher standard for judgment? **Lk 17:1-2**
3. According to verse 2, what does control of one's speech reveal about a person?
4. Why are James' words in verse two especially important to teachers?
5. What comparisons does James make to the tongue? (3-6) How do they illustrate the power of the tongue?
6. How can the tongue affect the course of one's life?
7. In what ways can the tongue be used for evil? For good? **1 John 3:7-10**

Read James 3:7-12

8. How does James illustrate the power of the tongue? (7-8) **Ps 140:3**
9. If verse 8 is true, why do we even *try* to tame the tongue?
10. What is the source of the tongue's poor behavior? **Mt 15:11, 18-20**
11. What contrasts does James point out in verses 9-12? What is James' bottom line?
12. Reading between the lines, what do you think was going on in this church?
13. How can you gain control of your tongue? **Phil 4:13**
14. Jesus and the apostles Paul and Peter were not always "tame" when it came to the tongue. (John 7, Acts 17, Acts 4) When is "harsh" language *acceptable*?
15. How can your "talk" compliment your "walk"? **Mt 7:16-20**

APPLICATION

- Write down one practical way you can be more consistent in your talk?
- What positive words do family or coworkers need to hear from you this week?

When Leonardo de Vinci was painting one of his great masterpieces, the Last Supper, he became quite angry with a friend. De Vinci lashed out with hot and bitter words, threatening his friend with vengeance. Returning to his canvas, he began to paint the face of Jesus at the table with his friends. The artist was so perturbed and disquieted, however, that he could not compose himself for the delicate work before him. He went out immediately, sought out his friend and humbly asked his forgiveness. In possession of inner calm, he was able to give the Master's face the tender and delicate expression he knew it must have.

– James, *Faith at Work*, Discoverylife, p. 26.