

## Looking In the Mirror Part 10

### “The Voice”

James 3:1-12

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind  
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

**Introduction:** There is a television show competition show called the voice.

- A. The competition is based the person’s ability to sing but the catch is the judge can only listen there back backs are to the person singing so with only there voice they must entice the judge to pick them.
  - 1. Here is the point the voice our words even how we say the things we say have powerful impact on others!
  - 2. I think more so than the other senses: The words of a man gives his character away!
    - More than the way we look, or walk or talk or smell or anything else!
- Words have great impact on the people that hear them: We spend so much time worrying about how we look but I wonder what it would be like if we would guard our words as closely.
- We paint our houses and manicure our lawns but what would the interior wall repeat if they could talk and repeat our words.
- We go to the gym (well some do) and shape our bodies to look healthy only to stand and talk about the ones that do not have it all together.
- The way things look can be important the words that are spoken have profound impact that can never be retracted.

- There is a lawyer trick that you have all seen in the where the lawyer ask a question he knows is out of line the other attorney will object and the judge will tell the jury to ignore it: Right!

**Transition:** James point here is that the tongue is very hard to control the words that we say are very difficult to keep under control and have great impact and should be bridled.

- Truth is we should say a lot less!
- Because words have a way of controlling lives!

### I. Words Control Our Lives vs. 1-5

A. Have you ever ask yourself this question “Why did I say that?”

1. Well the answer to that question is you said that because you were trying to manipulate that particular situation.

- Because that what words do so much so that James puts out a warning don't jump so fast to be a teacher because you are going to be held to a higher judgement why? Because words control and manipulate lives!

2. It is a high responsibility to teach others especially the Word of God!

B. There is something we all say, we say none of us are perfect and never has a truer statement been said but the instruction from God's Word here is that is if you want to strive to be perfect or complete, then the perfect is the person who doesn't stumble in what he says!

- The perfect man the complete person the person that is able to control the whole body is the person that does not find themselves in that position of “I can't believe I said that” or “I wish I hadn't said that” or “I should have never said that”

1. James uses the example of a bit in horse's mouths which is small but it controls the whole big animal.
  - The words we say control what we do positively or negatively we feel like we have to live up to our words our pride won't let us do anything else!
- I believe so many words have been said in the heat of the moment and now our pride will not let us act otherwise.
  - Maybe we told off a friend or maybe we may a decision that once we thought more about we wished we had never said out loud because our pride will not let us change our minds!
- You see Words control our lives they direct our whole body, what we do.
  - C. James compares it to the rudder on a ship when you think about it is pretty amazing!
    1. The rudder is very small compared to the rest of the ship but the ship will do whatever the rudder tells it to do.
      - We like to be in control most things we can't physically control to we try to name and claim it!
- Even in our prayer life we try to tell God what we want to happen we try to control things church that is not prayer our words to God does not control God!
  - They Praise God!
  - They Thank God!
  - They Ask God!
  - But they don't tell God to do anything who ever started this name it claim nonsense is not reading the same Bible!
- He does give us the desires of our heart when the desire of our heart is to glorify Him with every part of our lives!

- If your praying for more money, a new car, and prosperity in this world then you better figure out how that is going to bring glory to God or you name and claim it all you want because if it doesn't glorify God it didn't come from Him!

➤ Let me move on!

2. Words Control our lives but they do not control God!

- Although one of the smallest parts of the body it is the most powerful for the tongue, what we say controls much what we do!

**Transition:** Listen to me the tongue, words can spark a fire they destroy lives, look with me at verse 6:

- **6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. James 3:6**
  - This is a serious thing as we stand looking in the mirror asking ourselves do we have control of our tongue it is a serious thing literally lives are at stake maybe yours!
- Scripture says the tongue is like deadly poison: *8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.* James 3:8

## II. Words Burn Like Fire vs 6-12

A. I hear about the awful wild fire out in California or any wild fire then at some point sometimes you here how it started.

1. It's usually a just a small spark of some kind: a cigarette, or a spark from an unattended campfire or a kid with a match.

- These huge wildfires don't begin as huge wildfires they start with just a small spark!

B. That is the power of the tongue it is a small spark that can grow into a huge fire that destroys lives!

- ***5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.***

***See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!*** James 3:5

1. Churches don't split because of fist fights they split because of words!
2. Families don't stop speaking because of what was not said but because of what was said!
3. Most relationships end because of lies that are told!

- Listen the tongue is a fire starter, a button pusher!

C. Have you ever noticed that all the animals do what they are supposed to do!

1. Man is able to control all of them, you know why?

- It because they can't talk back, if a bear could talk he would sit there and lie to you about how he wasn't going to eat you then you turn your back, that's right.

- We are able to control so many things that seem so much stronger than us but we can't control our tongue so we can't really control anything!

**Transition:** Now I want to close but it will take a minute so hold on and stay with me:

A. If we look it the mirror what do we hear?

1. I know that doesn't make sense but you know what I am asking!

- ***8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; 10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.*** James 8-10

2. How do we use our words on Sunday Mornings: I would like to think that we come together in corporate worship lifting our voices in song, in prayer, in preaching His Word!

- But what about Monday at work, at school, at home, at the grocery store?

B. I once had a man who found out that I was a pastor invite me to go to church with him I was taken back I work with this guy every day I never dreamed he ever went to church why because of the things that he said.

1. What about you?

- With our mouth Praise and worship our Lord and curse men whom God created in His image.

➤ When you look in the mirror what do you hear?

2. There are those that have that up beat personality always a smile that is until its one on one and they tell you all about so and so and how they have been done wrong that is called bitter. Can kind words and bitter words come from the same place?

- Does a fountain send out both fresh and bitter water from the same opening?

➤ When you look in the mirror what do you hear?

C. And finally can we really produce fruit that God intends for us to produce if we are produce bad fruit!

■ When you look in the Mirror what do you hear?