

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
 - **Misuse of the Tongue... 3:1-12**
 - Misuse of Wisdom... 3:13-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

Tongue issues – review (1-5)

- The search for the perfect man (2)
 - Bits and Rudders show us the means
 - The small controls the whole
 - The tongue is small but boasts of great things
 - Small sparks ignite huge fires
 - How many lives have been destroyed?
 - Gossip, lies, innuendo, sarcasm, slander, criticism, insult,
 - James goes on to warn and encourage...

The fire of the tongue (6)

- Pr 16:27; 26:18-22 – so dangerous!
- World of iniquity – so many evil root causes
 - The serpent started it all with a lie... (Ge 3)
 - How many lives have been shattered?
- Defiles the entire body... what comes out of us!
 - Discord, hatred, fear, heresies, deceptions...
- Wheel of nature – wheel of life... in flames!
 - Dark things have been spoken with terrible results
 - Tongue in hell Lk 16:24

From the Talmud

- “whoever uses an evil tongue, the holy blessed God says to hell, I concerning him above, and thou concerning him below, will judge him, as it is said, #Ps 120:3 , 4. "What shall be done to thee, thou false tongue? sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper," there is no arrow but the tongue, according to Jer 9:8 and there is no mighty one but God, Isa 42:13 "coals of juniper," these are hell.”

Abilities and inabilities (7,8)

- We have tamed all manner of animals
 - Even in James' day... lions and tigers and bears!
 - even more so in our day... whales, seals, dolphin
 - *damazo* – curb, restrain, tame (4x Mr 5:4 3x here)
- But the tongue...
 - Unruly evil – *akataschetos*, 1x – unrestrainable
 - Deadly poison – *thanatephoros*, 1x – death bringing
 - We cannot control this alone, we need divine help!
 - To the need, God sends HIMSELF – HS
 - This is the only way to make a difference

Conflict of the tongue (9,10)

- Blessing and cursing from the same source
- Our tongues have the power to praise God
 - This is unique among all creation...
 - Isa 29:13 warning – mouth/heart connection
- With the same, we curse man, made by God
 - This is what we must see! Who are we really cursing?
 - Brethren... should not be!! (1Ti 5:13)
 - This is a call to make the changes necessary
 - Ps 34:13; Pr 13:3; 21:23

Taking it from nature (11,12)

- Streams:
 - From one source bitter and sweet?
 - Salt or fresh... not both!
 - Never happens! You get one or the other...
- Trees:
 - Do fig trees bear olives? Or grape vines figs?
 - You get what has been planted...
- Words of blessing/cursing from the same?
 - THIS SHOULD NEVER BE!
 - Shows the nature inside (Ro 7)