



JAMES

“... the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him”



James

- Generally considered to be author: James (Yacob / Jacob): the half-brother of Jesus & leader of the council of Jerusalem
- full of instruction and command – much of which is inspired by the teaching of Jesus (notably the sermon on the mount) and by the wisdom of the book of Proverbs
- A ‘general letter’ written to the ‘12 Tribes’ – to all believers or at least, as some would argue, all Jewish Christians

So Far...

- James 1
 - Perseverance Through Trials
 - Right Choiceness in Temptation
 - Lies Deceiving or Light Receiving
 - Bad Stuff Out, Good Stuff In
 - Reflection Reaction
 - Twisted Tongues or Faultless Faith
 - Oh Sit Down Next to Me
- James 2
 - Oh Sit Down Next to me
 - Faith Has to Work

Last Time...

Faith Has to Work

James 2:14-26

Make Sure Your Faith is Bona Fide



Last Time...

Faith Has to Work



JAMES 3:1-12

Power Steering the Tongue



Power Steering the Tongue

- To understand the power of what your tongue is steering
- To ensure you know what power is steering your tongue



James 3

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.



James 3

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.



Sticks and Stones...

- ‘Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me’
- Nothing could be further from the truth
- The first section of James 3 is about helping us to recognise the power of our tongues



You Have Immense Power

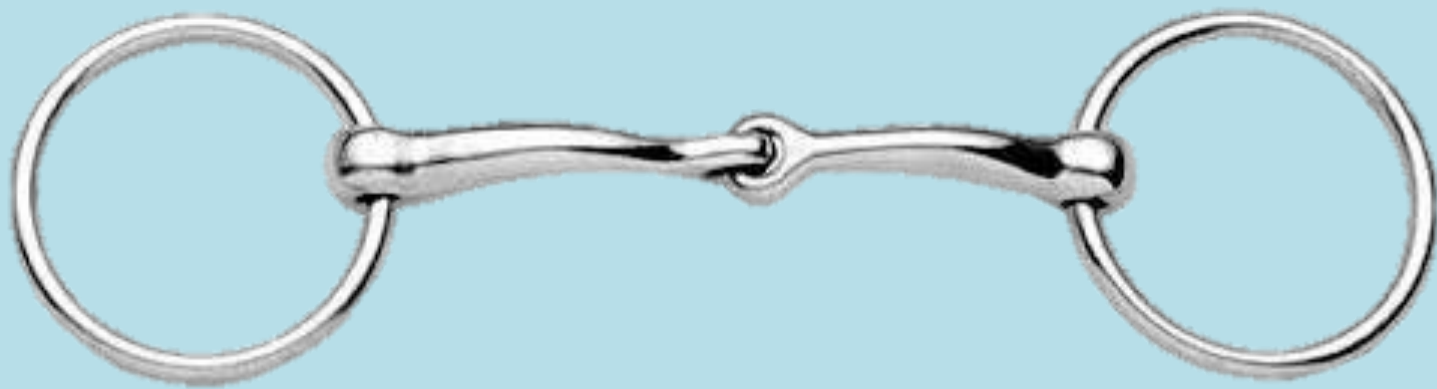
- A few words from you today could change my life and make me take on everything that comes my way
- A few words from you today could totally destroy my world and cause me to implode
- Life and death, growth or destruction – they are both right there in your mouth (Prov 18:21)



Think About What You Say

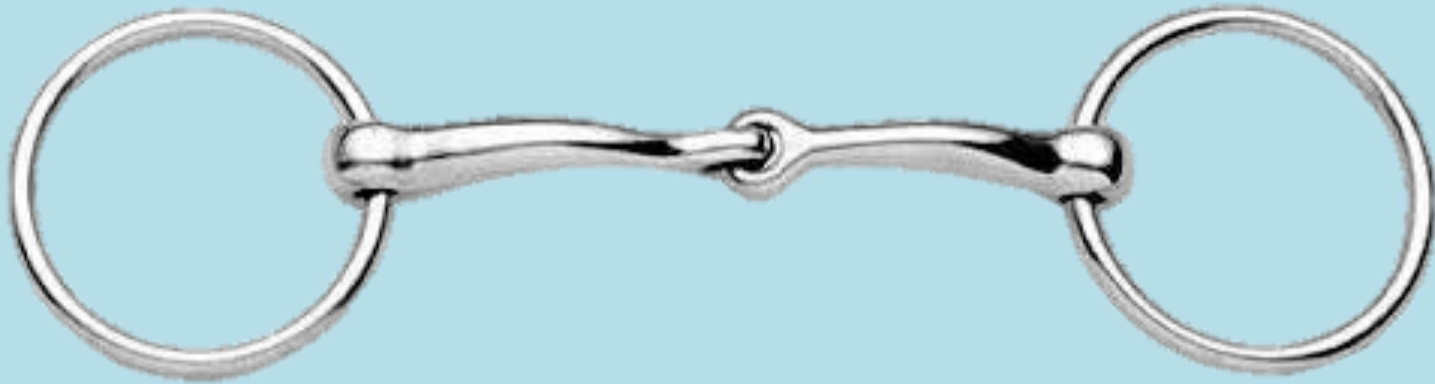
- One misplaced word could disrupt the course of this whole meeting
 - From me
 - From you
- One word could change your whole life – for better or for worse
- A few words from a bride and groom set the course for the rest of their lives





Small Bit, Big Horse

- A small bit in the mouth of the horse sets the course for the whole way ahead



Small Rudder Big Ship

- A small rudder can change the direction of an enormous ship



Small Spark Big Fire

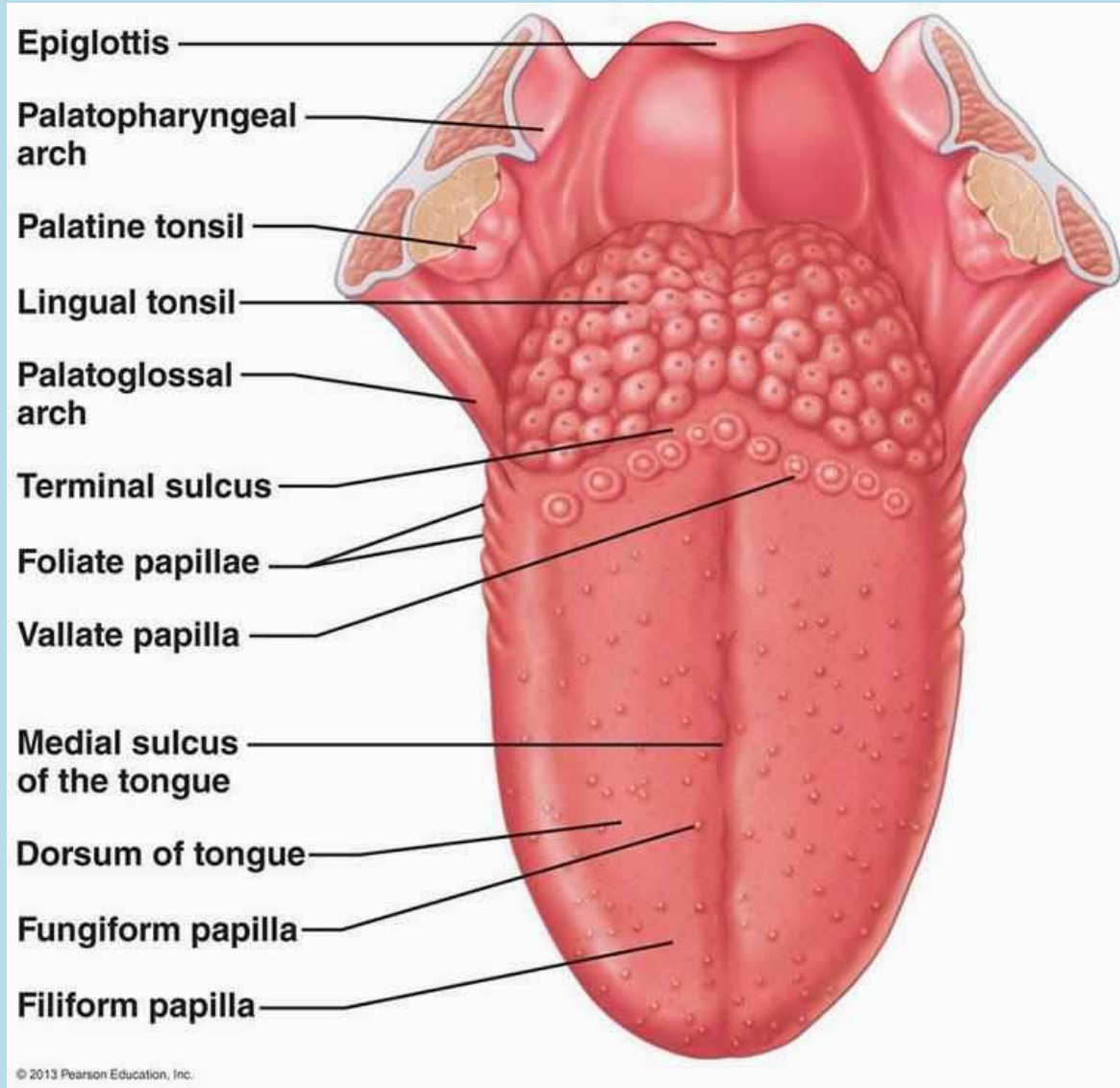
- One spark can set the whole course of your life on fire



Tongue Talents



Small Tongue Big Power



Power Steering the Tongue

- What is your tongue going to be used for
- ‘set on fire by hell’
- If we are using our words for anything other than that which can glorify God then what is behind it?
- Hell can control our tongues



Power Steering the Tongue

- Peter used His tongue wrongly to try and instruct Jesus (Matthew 16)
- ‘Get behind me satan!’
- Peter’s words did not come from the right place. They seemed like the right thing to say, but they were not the righteous thing to say!



Think Before You Speak

- ‘slow to speak’
- What he means here is not to have a great big pause between every sentence! It is to be mindful of the power of what you are saying
 - Not that we cannot be honest and speak the truth
 - Put on the ‘will this bring life or death’ filter
- Remember how many ears you have as opposed to how many mouths!



Think Before You Teach

- Judged more strictly
- If we teach, we get to help steer the ship
- We have to make sure that we are thinking, praying and seeking to ensure Heaven is guiding what we teach



We All Teach

- We all teach and influence other people's lives with our words – we should be careful what we teach – 'quick to listen, slow to speak' (Ja 1:19)
- Who knows how much influence those few words you speak to someone could have on their lives?!
- The advice you give to someone may lead to them making the worst decisions (or the best ones)



Tame it



Words of Life

- A life of faith is a life that has been given to God – Faith Has to Work
- Our response to who God is and what He has done for us is to give our whole life – including our tongues
- Is your tongue the product of a heart that flows with salt water or with fresh water?



Love God, Love People

- how we treat people cannot be distinguished from how we treat God
- What is the best way I can love people with my words?
- Even our enemies are made in the image of God and loved by Him



Power Steering of Your Tongue

- Your body belongs to God
- Including Your Tongue
- It is to be used for the glory of God
 - Steer yourself and others into life
 - Fill your thoughts, heart and mouth from the well of life

