

James 3v1-12

**TAMING THE TONGUE**

TAMING THE TONGUE

*“Words are like eggs dropped from a great height. You can no more call them back than you can ignore the mess they leave behind!”*

Jodie Picoult

*“Be careful what you say. You can say something hurtful in ten seconds, but ten years later, the wounds are still there.”*

Unknown

*“Good words are worth much and cost little.”*

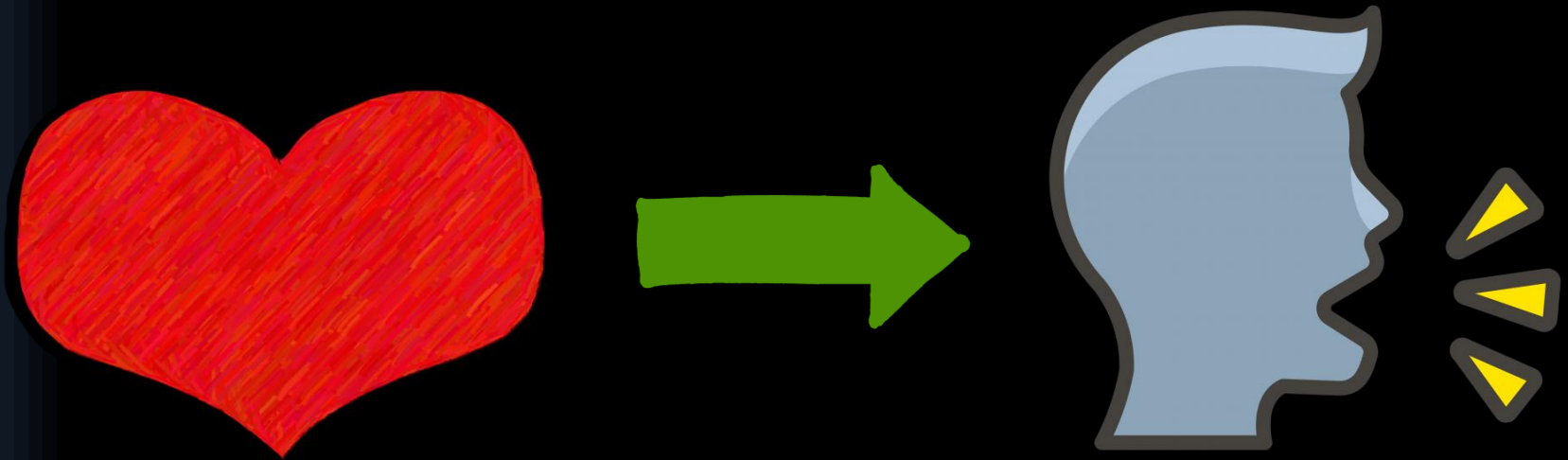
George Herbert

**1v19:** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...

**1v19:** My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...

**1v26:** Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongue deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

**Lk 6v45:** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.



# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

**V1:** Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.



# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

V2: 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.

# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

Is 53v9: He was assigned a grave with the wicked,

and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

V3-4: When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> 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.

# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

V3-4: When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> 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.



# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

V3-4: When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> 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.



# 1) The POTENTIAL of the tongue

V5-6: Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.<sup>6</sup> 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.



## 2) The PROBLEM of the tongue

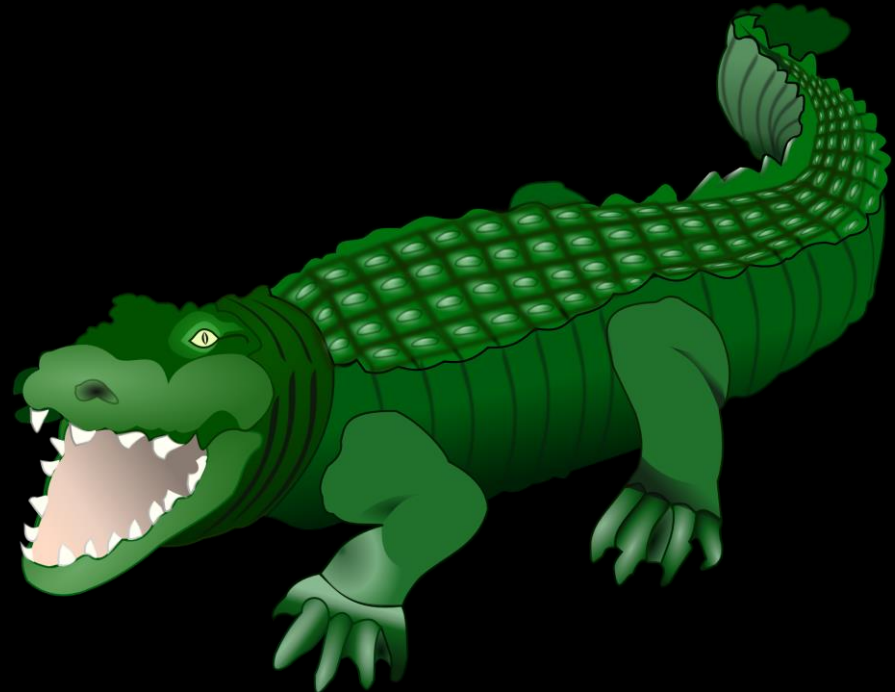
**V7-8:** All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil,  
full of deadly  
poison.

## 2) The PROBLEM of the tongue

V7-8: All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue.

It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.





## 2) The PROBLEM of the tongue

- Careless chatter

Proverbs 10v8: The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin

## 2) The PROBLEM of the tongue

- Careless chatter

**Proverbs 10v8:** The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin

**2 Tim 2v18:** Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly

## 2) The **PROBLEM** of the tongue

- Careless chatter
- **Gossip**

**Proverbs 26v20:** Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

## 2) The PROBLEM of the tongue

- Careless chatter
- Gossip
- **Lying**

**Proverbs 12v22:** The Lord detests lying lips,  
but he delights in people who are  
trustworthy

### 3) The PURPOSE of the tongue

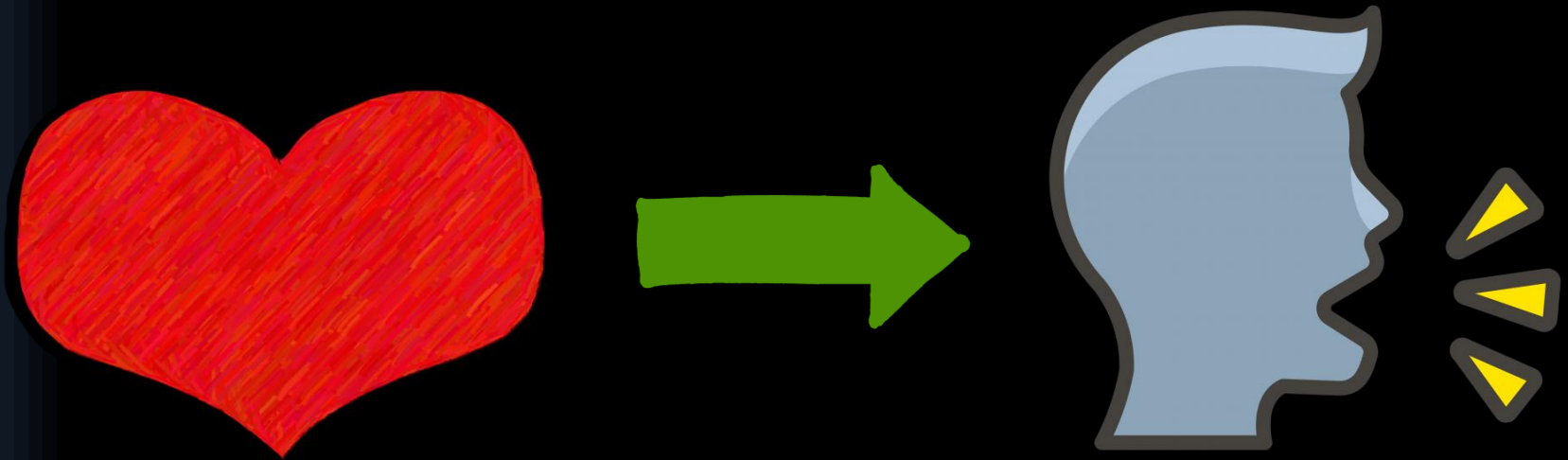
**V9-10:** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

### 3) The PURPOSE of the tongue

V11-12: Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.



**Lk 6v45:** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.



# Look in the mirror of God's word...

- Will my words build up or tear down?
  - Will my words encourage or discourage?
  - Will my words bring refreshment or ruin?
  - Will my words praise God or put down people?
- 
- Will my words lead others to Jesus and the life that only he can give?



