

Hung By The Tongue

James 3:1-6

Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell. ~ Mess

The words that come out of our mouths!

Our tongue causes us to stumble often, **word** after **word**. No one—no matter how great of a person you may be—is free from stumbling and falling from their **words**.

In our scripture we read "*we get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths*".

You see:

We don't just occasionally mess up;

We are **always** coming up short before God.

I'm speaking to me, just as much as to any of you, this applies to everyone of us.

- ✓ When we begin to think about what we say and what comes out of our mouths. There is only one thing can be said: we do fall short we are of the glory of God!

In no uncertain terms, our tongue causes us to constantly stumble.

We are held **accountable** by God for every word we speak.

Therefore, we must learn to **control** our tongues.

Prov 21:23 *If you want to stay out of trouble, be careful what you say. ~ TEV*

Let's go back to our scripture:

***A bit** in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. **A small rudder** on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!*

Two illustrations are given.

- Consider the bit that is put in the mouth of a horse to guide and turn the horse's body. The bit is so small.
- Consider the small rudder that guides a ship. It even controls the ship through the winds of a fierce storm. Note how small it is.

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So it is with our tongue.
It is only a little member of our body,
but it has **destructive** power, that is great.

It can **boast** great things,

boast (bōst)

v. **boast·ed, boast·ing, boasts**

To glorify oneself in speech; talk in a self-admiring way.

To speak of with excessive pride.

1. The act or an instance of bragging.
2. A source of pride.

It can **generate** statements of stress..

I can boast about anything and I can boast in a quiet, unassuming way or boast by *talking big*.

But no matter how my boasting is done,
(let's just call it what it is, when I talk down to others or speak negative of others)

- it is **destructive**:
- it either **lowers** the image of a person in the eyes of others because of what I have said or I have made the listener feel inferior or less of a person than myself.

Boasting is nothing more than vain or empty talk, but its destructive **force** must never be underestimated.

Psalm 15:1-3 *Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?² Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.³ Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends . ~ NLT*

Oh yes, our words are powerful.

Where are they directing you and those around you?

Matt. 12:36-37 *...How do you suppose what you say is worth anything when you are so foul-minded? It's your heart, not the dictionary, that gives meaning to your words. A good person produces good deeds and words season after season. An evil person is a blight on the orchard. **Let me tell you something: Every one of these careless words is going to come back to haunt you. There will be a time of Reckoning. Words are powerful; take them seriously. Words can be your salvation. Words can also be your damnation.***" ~ Mess

A prayer for you:

Ps. 141:3 ***Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say.***