

"NOBODY LIKES A TATTLE-TALE"

(James 3 and Ephesians 4)

As children, it was common for us to be told after reporting on our brother or sister's action that nobody likes a tattle-tale, especially the one ratted on.

Did you know that you have a body part that actually rats on your heart? It is true. It is your tongue. Jesus told us that "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." In other words, the tongue is a tattle-tale. It gives indication of what happening in the heart. It is like a thermometer to the body...your words are the measure of your spiritual temperature, for it produces what it is told to produce by the heart.

God's wonderful Word has much to say about our tongues and their usage. As we studied last week, we are to live to the glory of God and one way we can do this is to honor Him with our tongues. If you are a Christian, God expects you to have your tongue under control. Remember, He listens to every word you say.

THREE REMINDERS REGARDING YOUR TONGUE URGING YOU TO USE IT ONLY FOR GOD'S GLORY.

For the wrong use of the tongue is probably the easiest way for us to sin!!! There are no built-in restraints for it.

I. Your Tongue, Though Very Small, Has Great Power. (vv.3:3-5a)

- A. James offers us examples illustrating the power of the tongue.
 - 1. Horses are extremely powerful animals, yet can be controlled by a small bit. (3)
James seems to have the prancing high-spirited war horse in mind.
 - 2. Huge ships on the sea are guided by a very small rudder. This is the largest man-made object that people might attempt to steer. Though large and buffeted by the wind, it is steered by the small rudder.
- B. James gives us the application in verse 5. Your tongue, though very small when compared to your body, exercises a power far out of proportion to its size. In the average adult, the tongue weighs 1 pound. Yet, to a large extent, we are known by the way we talk. People will like us or not, largely by what our tongue say. It has great power. Don't be fooled.
Did you know that man's first sin after the Fall was a sin of the tongue? He accused God by saying, "the woman you gave me..." (blame-shifting)

II. Your Tongue Has The Power To Do Great Damage To Others. (vv.5b-12)

- A. James tells us that our tongues are likened to fire as both can cause enormous destruction.

