


Day 1

 Please pray for holy wisdom and guidance before you begin today’s study.

Taming the Tongue

¹ Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Q1. Who is the judge, who will “judge . . . more strictly”?

Q2. Who is a “teacher”?

Q3. In the context of this verse what is the subject-matter the teachers are teaching?

Q4. Why did James make this statement, “that we who teach will be judged more strictly”?

Q5. Are we teaching when we share the Good News about Christ Jesus to our unsaved relatives or neighbors?

Q6. Is James attempting to stop us from spreading the Good News about Christ Jesus?


2 John 1:7

Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Q7. In reference to 2 John 1:7, do we have to worry about “deceivers” today or was this warning to only the contemporaries of James’ time?

Q8. Can you think of any deceptive teachings that “churches” teach, today?

Q9. How would you describe a “fundamental” church, today?

 “. . . In keeping with traditional Christian doctrines concerning biblical interpretation, the mission of Jesus Christ, and the role of the church in society, fundamentalists affirmed a core of Christian beliefs that included the historical accuracy and


inerrancy of the Bible, the imminent and physical Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and Christ’s Virgin Birth, Resurrection, and Atonement. . .” [https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christian-fundamentalism]

Q10. How does our American society perceive a “fundamental” church? Why?

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Q11. Is it important for a church to teach the Bible? Or just parts of it?

Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

2 Peter 3:3-7

First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing, and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:8-9

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance...

2 Peter 3:17-18

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Matthew 24:35

[Jesus taught,] “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:18

I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Q12. How should we teach unbelievers about the Good News of Christ Jesus keeping in mind that we are to “Love your neighbor as yourself”?

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Mark 12:30-31

[Jesus answered] " ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Q13. When you are wrong, how do you like to be corrected?

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Q14. When you share the Gospel, are you confrontational? (Synonyms for confrontational include aggressive, argumentative, hostile, and contentious)

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Q15. How can we share the Good News of Christ Jesus using compassion and mercy?

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Q16. Do you pray before you share the Gospel message? Do you allow the Holy Spirit to give you words, to work in the heart of the recipient based on your prayer?

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²We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

Q17. Is it possible for a person in this world to be “perfect”? Why?

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Q18. Was any person ever “perfect,” without sin?

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Q19. Do you believe that the tongue is full of evil? Why or why not?

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Day 3

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³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or 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. ^{5a}Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts.

Q20. Is “boasting” a bad trait?

1 Corinthians 1:31

Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 10:17

But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

2 Corinthians 12:6

[Paul continues his discussion on 'personal' boasting.] Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. [Actions speak louder than words!] ⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Q21. If someone “boasts,” what does it say about their character?

Q22. Our society promotes “high self-esteem”. Is that a good personal attitude (or character trait)?

^{5b}Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Q23. Why is James spending so many words on the tongue? Is the “tongue” really so evil?

Q24. Do you remember if Jesus ever taught about the “tongue”? If so, what was the teaching?

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Matthew 12:33

[Jesus rebuked the Pharisees,] "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers [the Pharisees], how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."


Matthew 15:17

[Jesus taught His disciples,] "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.' "

Q25. Does the mouth, the tongue, reflect a person’s heart? How so?

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Day 4

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

Q26. Is it true that we cannot “tame the tongue”?

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⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.

Q27. When you were a child (or even an adult), did you ever angrily shout, “I wish you were...”?

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Q28. What is a “curse”?


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¹¹ Can both fresh water and saltwater flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Q29. Do you have any questions that remain unanswered in this study of James?

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Day 5

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Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Q30. How do we obtain "wisdom"?


Q31. How can "wisdom" give us "humility"?

Q32. What does the writer James want us to do? How are we to live?

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Q33. How can "envy and selfish ambition" be bad for a person?

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Q34. In verse 15, to what does “wisdom” refer?

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Q35. Why does “disorder and every evil practice” follow “envy and selfish ambition”?

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James 4:4

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Q36. Who is the “ruler” of this world? Or “prince” of this world?

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John 12:31


Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

John 14:30

I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me,


John 16:11


and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

 In Genesis 1:26, God gave Adam (humankind) the responsibility to “rule... over all the earth”.

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

 After the fall of man (when Eve and Adam ate from the forbidden ‘tree of the knowledge of good and evil’), the “rule... over all the earth” passed to Satan.

 Jesus confirmed this statement during the second of His three temptations when He did not refute Satan’s claim of ownership. In **Luke 4:5-8** we read, “The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, ‘I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ So if you worship me, it will all be yours.’ ⁸ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’ ”

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Q37. What one character trait seems to be held in high esteem by the Lord?

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Q38. What character traits seem to be held in high-esteem by the world?

Q39. How do we grow in peace, submission, mercy, and deeds?

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

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