



BIBLICAL BEHAVIOR
CAGING THE TONGUE
JAMES 3:1-12

Charlie Matz - Compass Bible Church - March 21, 2021

1. Admit _____
(vv. 1-2a)

2. Respect _____
(vv. 2b-5a)

3. Keep _____
(vv. 5b-8)

4. Inspect _____
(vv. 9-12)

James 3:1-12 (ESV)

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. 4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder whenever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Matthew 12:36-37.** How sobering is the reality of this passage? How might this passage change the way you speak?
2. **Review James 3:1.** Not everyone is called to be a pastor, but have you considered the condition of your tongue before accepting a leadership role in the church? If you have children or grandchildren, does this change the way you think about leading them?
3. Discuss the idea of having a transcript of every word you've spoken, typed, texted, and posted over the past six months. How might this hypothetical situation change the way you think about the reality of standing before Christ someday to give an account for your words?
4. **Review James 3:5-8.** How have you seen the destructive power of your tongue affect others? How have you seen the constructive power of your tongue affect others?
5. **Read Proverbs 17:28.** How has the pattern of your speech changed as you've grown more in your faith? What things come out of your mouth less? What things come out of your mouth more?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for saving us and giving us victory over sin!

Pray that this church would love others well with our words.

Pray that God would use our Easter services to glorify his name in our community this year.

Pray that the men of CBCTV will grow in spiritual leadership through A Call to Arms.

Pray that God will provide a long-term home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	O.T.	Psalms	N.T.	Gospels
3/22	Numbers 31-32	Psalms 37:18-24	Matthew 23:29-39	Acts 26:12-23
3/23	Numbers 33-34	Psalms 37:25-31	Matthew 24:1-14	Acts 26:24-32
3/24	Numbers 35-36	Psalms 37:32-40	Matthew 24:15-28	Acts 27:1-12
3/25	Deuteronomy 1-2	Psalms 38:1-8	Matthew 24:29-35	Acts 27:13-26
3/26	Deuteronomy 3	Psalms 38:9-16	Matthew 24:36-51	Acts 27:27-44
3/27	Deuteronomy 4-5	Psalms 38:17-22	Matthew 25:1-13	Acts 28:1-16