



# Asbury Church

Sermon Notes  
November 11, 2018  
"Taming Our Tongues"  
James 3:2-12



## I. The power of words

- A. The big application for this series is to be quick to listen and slow to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Our lives have been shaped by the \_\_\_\_\_ that were spoken **to us, over us,** and **about us.**
- C. The challenging thing about the \_\_\_\_\_ of words is that:
  - Words are not equally weighted.
  - The source is not equally weighted.
  - The recovery time is not equally weighted.

## II. Destructive tongues

- A. James says if we gain control of our words it can keep our whole body out of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. James says the tongue is a relatively \_\_\_\_\_ part of the body but it has extraordinary influence and power.
- C. James says the tongue will never be fully under \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. Dealing with the untamable tongue

- A. James is saying there is no 'once-and-for-all' solution to \_\_\_\_\_ our tongues.
- B. A practical way to guard our tongues is to remember, surrender, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. This week pray "Heavenly Father, remind me to be quick to listen, and \_\_\_\_\_ to speak."

**Things I would like to remember about this message:**

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## Asbury Daily Study Guide

### INTRODUCTION

Like a small spark that has the potential to scorch an entire green forest, our tongues are untamable with the power to control our whole bodies. We have a tool that can be used to build up those around us or tear them down with just a few words. What do we do with that kind of power? We can't lock it away. But we can, by God's grace, learn to control it.

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### Monday: Acts 11:22-26

Barnabas was a great encourager. The early church was facing severe persecution and many believers scattered. Barnabas offered the Christians in Antioch the best encouragement anyone could receive during this difficult time. He told them to keep their eyes focused on God. Who has significantly impacted your life with their words? Do you think it's easier to remember the harsh words of those who hurt you or the kind words of those that encourage you?

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### Tuesday: Matthew 15:10-11

Jesus warns us as to how destructive our words can be. In which relationships do you find yourself losing control of your mouth? Have you faced any relational consequences as a result?

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### Wednesday: Ephesians 4:26-31

It's hard to come to grips with how powerful our words can be. It helps to have a clear plan on how to respond when you're faced with losing control. In which of the following areas do you need the most help. **Remember** – recognize that your words are powerful. **Surrender** – ask God to help you be quick to listen and slow to speak. **Confess** – don't explain or excuse, own the fires you start.

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### Thursday: James 3:2-12

List the images James paints of the power of the tongue. Which of these comparisons do you identify with the most?

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### Friday: I Peter 3:8-12

Peter warns us to keep our tongues from evil speaking. What are some creative ways you and your support group (family, small group, friends etc.) can support one another in controlling your mouths (e.g. text an image of fire, write a note with a prayer below, etc.) Commit to follow through on one of your ideas this week.

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### MOVING FORWARD

We are powerful because our words are powerful. Our mouths have more destructive power than any other part of our body. The good news is that we also have the power to avoid the consequences of an untamable tongue if we choose to take James' wisdom to heart and surrender this powerful tool to God. Take time this week to pray "*Heavenly Father, remind me to be quick to listen and slow to speak.*"

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### Answers to the sermon notes:

- IA) speak, B) words, C) power.
- IIA) trouble, B) small, C) control.
- IIIA) taming, B) confess, C) slow.