

# "KEEP IT SHUT": QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 1 (PGS. 9-20)

To be discussed Wednesday Class, Oct. 7 OR Sunday Class, Oct. 11

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO DISCUSS THIS CHAPTER AS A CLASS.

## CHAPTER 1: FROM SPARKS TO RAGING FIRE: The Awful Power of the Tongue

1. FROM PG. 9-11: **PROVERBS 18:21** "DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE, & THOSE WHO LOVE IT WILL EAT ITS FRUITS." Share the opening story of this book. Did the author's words bring death or life? Explain.
  
2. "OUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL AND HAVE CONSEQUENCES." When did someone's words spoken about you alter your life?
  
3. FROM PG. 12-14: **JAMES 3:5-6** "SO ALSO THE TONGUE IS A SMALL THING, BUT WHAT ENORMOUS DAMAGE IT CAN DO. A GREAT FOREST CAN BE SET ON FIRE BY ONE TINY SPARK. AND THE TONGUE IS A FLAME OF FIRE. IT IS FULL OF WICKEDNESS, & POISONS EVERY PART OF THE BODY. AND THE TONGUE IS SET ON FIRE BY HELL ITSELF & CAN TURN OUR WHOLE LIVES INTO A BLAZING FLAME OF DESTRUCTION AND DISASTER."
  - 3A. Why are we cautioned to be very careful with the words we speak?
  
  - 3B. Who is behind every ugly, evil word we speak?
  
  - 3C. How does my tongue corrupt my whole body?
  
4. FROM PG. 14-15: **JAMES 3:3-4** "WE CAN MAKE A LARGE HORSE GO WHEREVER WE WANT BY MEANS OF A SMALL BIT IN ITS MOUTH. AND A SMALL RUDDER MAKES A HUGE SHIP TURN WHEREVER THE PILOT CHOOSES TO GO, EVEN THOUGH THE WINDS ARE STRONG."
  - 4A. What 2 things can be tamed and what small thing controls them?
  
  - 4B. **JAMES 3:7-8** "PEOPLE CAN TAME ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES, & FISH, BUT NO ONE CAN TAME THE TONGUE. IT IS RESTLESS & EVIL, FULL OF DEADLY POISON."  
What was "THE UTTERLY UNTAMABLE" creature at the circus behind the curtain that no one could possibly tame?

5. FROM PG. 15: **JAMES 3:9-12** "SOMETIMES IT PRAISES OUR LORD & FATHER, & SOMETIMES IT CURSES THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. AND SO BLESSING & CURSING COME POURING OUT OF THE SAME MOUTH. SURELY, MY BROTHERS & SISTERS, THIS IS NOT RIGHT! DOES A SPRING OF WATER BUBBLE OUT WITH BOTH FRESH WATER & BITTER WATER? DOES A FIG TREE PRODUCE OLIVES, OR A GRAPEVINE PRODUCE FIGS? NO, & YOU CAN'T DRAW FRESH WATER FROM A SALTY SPRING."

What is our main problem with our mouth and the words we speak every day? Have you noticed this about yourself?

6. FROM PG. 17-20: **LUKE 6:45** "A GOOD MAN BRINGS GOOD THINGS OUT OF THE GOOD STORED UP IN HIS HEART, & AN EVIL MAN BRINGS EVIL THINGS OUT OF THE EVIL STORED UP IN HIS HEART. FOR THE MOUTH SPEAKS WHAT THE HEART IS FULL OF."  
Do my words ever tumble out of my mouth randomly or by mistake? Explain.

7. Read the Scriptures below and tell how can I take very careful care of my heart's condition so that the words that flow out of my HEART will be pleasant and sweet instead of hurtful and bitter.

- 7A. **PSALM 46:10** "BE STILL, & KNOW THAT I AM GOD! I WILL BE HONORED BY EVERY NATION. I WILL BE HONORED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

What do I need to do to grow and mature in my heart toward Jesus? How will this help my words I speak daily?

- 7B. **JAMES 1:5** " IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, YOU SHOULD ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT FINDING FAULT, & IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU."

What do I need to do to grow and mature in my heart toward Jesus? How will this help my words I speak daily?

- 7C. **GALATIANS 5:22-23, 25-26** "BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES THIS KIND OF FRUIT IN OUR LIVES: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, & SELF-CONTROL. THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST THESE THINGS! SINCE WE ARE LIVING BY THE SPIRIT, LET US FOLLOW THE SPIRIT'S LEADING IN EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES. LET US NOT BECOME CONCEITED, OR PROVOKE ONE ANOTHER, OR BE JEALOUS OF ONE ANOTHER."

What do I need to do to grow and mature in my heart toward Jesus? How will this help my words I speak daily?

- 7D. **PROVERBS 10:19** "TOO MUCH TALK LEADS TO SIN. BE SENSIBLE & KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT."

What do I need to do to grow and mature in my heart toward Jesus? How will this help my words I speak daily?

8. FROM PG. 20: Are you ready for the journey? A quest to learn to say what we should, when we should, and to know when to say nothing at all to a family member, co-worker, neighbor or online facebook, instagram or texting. Write a prayer to Jesus about your heart's desire to speak words that He would be pleased with.