

VIII. Taming the Tongue - Part 3

D. Untamable - vs 7-8

1. Every species

a. walking or flying - beast and bird

i. Lions, tigers, and Bears

ii. Parrots, Hawks,

b. crawling or swimming - reptile and creature of the sea

i. Snakes

ii. Aquarium shows

2. have been tamed by mankind.

a. for centuries, major attraction in circuses, wild animal acts

b. occasional animal acting like a wild animal under these circumstances

c. Main point - the tongue is innately uncontrollable and untamable. It is wild, undisciplined, irresponsible, irrepressible, and savage. It combats every effort to control and direct it

3. But no man can tame the tongue.

a. even believers can slip without God's help

i. Ps 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

ii. Ro 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

iii. Ga 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

b. It is an unruly evil,

i. unruly - *akataschetos* - unrestrainable:--unruly, unsettled, unstable and hence disorderly (out of control, in tumult).

- used in 1:8 of unstable

- has the idea of a wild animal fighting fiercely against the restraints of captivity

- chafes at confinement

ii. Evil - *kakós* – inwardly *foul, rotten (poisoned)*; inner *malice* flowing out of a *morally-rotten* character (= the "rot is already in the wood").

c. full of deadly poison.

i. *thanatephoros* - death-bearing, i.e. fatal:--deadly.

- Contrast-emphasis sometimes conveys intensification which means not a little

- more deadly than snake venom in that it destroys morally, socially, economically, and spiritually

ii. *iós* - rust, poison

- David understood the most dangerous attacks are verbal-Ps 64:1-10

- Jacob saw that Laban's son's lies had poisoned the living situation

- Ge 31

- Doeg's lies about David and Ahimelech cost the lives of 85 priests

- 1 Sam 22:9-19

- The lies of the princes of Ammon about David, caused Hanun to assemble an army against David cost the slaughter of those soldiers and the lives of mercenaries - 2 Sam 10
- Jezebel had false witnesses against Naboth to get his land - 1 Kgs 21:1-13
- Jesus was crucified b/c of lies - Mt 26:57-60
- Stephen was falsely accused - Acts 6:8-7:60

E. Inconsistency - vs 9-12

1. The ability to compromise

a. With it we bless our God and Father

- i. 1Ch 29:10b David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.
- ii. 1Ch 29:20 Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God."

b. and with it we curse men

- i. who have been made in the similitude of God.
- ii. The capacity for treachery is immeasurable

2. inconsistent and hypocritical

a. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing.

i. Peter

- Mt 16:16 "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Mt 26:74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!"

ii. Paul

- Ac 23:3a Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall!
- Ac 23:5a "I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest;

b. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

i. *chre ou* - (with the negative) it needs (must or should) be:--ought.

- a strong negative used only here in the NT
- the idea of there is no place in the Christian life for this duplicitous speech

ii. When we were saved, God gave us the capacity for new redeemed holy speech

- Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
- Col 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

2. Three illustrations

a. The Spring - Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? - obvious answer - NO

b. a 2fer - The Fig Tree and the grapevine - Can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine bear figs? - obvious answer - NO - Mt 7:16

3. Conclusion - Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

a. Mt 7:17-18 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

b. Mt 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.