"A RESUME OF THE TONGUE"—JAMES 3:1-12—PASTOR BOB BRANDHAGEN

The Purpose: To understand the deadly nature of our tongues, and to seek God's wisdom in the humanly impossible task of taming the tongue so that it can do its main jobs—praising God and blessing people.

I. Beware of Teaching God's Word—What You Say Will be Strictly Judged (3:1)

Application: If you dare to teach God's word, beware of the judgment to come.

There is enough blame to go around; it isn't just teachers who sin in what they say:

II. We All Stumble in What We Say—Only Our Savior Said All Things Well (3:2)

Application: Praise the Lord for the Savior, the only one who never sinned in what He said!

If you can control your tongue which is so small, you can steer your whole body:

III. "Micro" Parts Have a "Mega" Impact (3:3-5)

Application: We are commanded to "consider" (3:5b) how much fire damage our tongues can do. Do an estimate of the cost of destruction before you say it.

Your mouth is the steering wheel of your body; it is also a fiery serpent:

IV. Metaphors for the Tongue Paint a Destructive Picture (3:6-8)

Application: Confess that your tongue is a poisonous, restlessly evil wildfire. Pray that God will tame your tongue, since no mere mortal can do it.

Our tongues are poison, but they can be used for praise:

V. Commit Your Mouth to Praising God, Not Cursing People—You Can't Do Both (3:9-12)

Application: Choose to use your mouth to bless, not curse.

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The Big Idea (The Sermon-in-a-Sentence): Our tongues are untamable, evil, hell-kindled, restless, hypocritical poison, but by God's power they can be bridled and be a blessing.

The Big Question: Will you be the Burn Unit, blessing those you've burned with your tongue?

The Gospel: "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you" (James 1:21, NIV)."
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