

Digging Deeper: James 3:1–12 (*Taming the Tongue*)

Faith in Action – Watch What You Say!

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Day 1

Pray for God's Guidance. Read James 3:1–2. Remember that there is no one without sin. Have faith and be confident, however, in your role as a Christian. Know your spiritual gifts/strengths and your limitations. Watch what you say and how you say it, as someone is always listening.

Day 2

Pray for Understanding. Read James 3:3–4.

“Do not be like the horse or mule, which have no understanding” (Ps 32:9).

Day 3

Pray and take time to Be Silent. Read James 3:5.

“May the Lord silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue – those who say, ‘By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us – who is Lord over us?’” (Psalm 12:3-4)

Day 4

Pray for Wisdom when reading James 3:6. Also read Matthew 15: 11, 18, and 19:

¹¹What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them. ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart comes evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Day 5

Pray for Discernment. Read James 3:7, which emphasizes that “no human being can tame the tongue.” Work being done with the *Men of Chesapeake* is one example of how MACC has reached many souls who have fallen through the cracks in the eyes of society. We must remain watchful of how we speak of those who are considered by our society as “beneath” us. Find time today to think about how the wicked tongue “sets the whole course of one's life on fire” (Jas. 3:6b). Only the work of the Holy Spirit within us can bring this destructive force under control. Again, pray for discernment but remember that “Mercy triumphs over judgement” – Jas. 2:13b.

Day 6

Pray for Unity. Read James 3:9–12. Emphasis here is that “we praise our Lord and Father” with the same tongue that “curses human beings who have been made in God's likeness.” James is pointing out the inconsistency of blessing God while cursing people who are created in His image. Again, pray for unifying of the tongue so that it be used for praising God our Father and for speaking lovingly of all who God created in His likeness.

