



2

James 3:1-5a ¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

What does it mean to stumble?

• What does it tell us that a person who does not stumble in word is in control of his whole body?

• Who is controlling the horse, the ship, our tongue?

3

James 3:5-8 ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

4

James 3:9-12 ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

- Why discuss the opposites of fresh and salt water and plants growing the wrong fruit?
- What is the significance of stating that the salt pond cannot yield fresh water?

How much fire is required to cause damage?

• Is it possible to tame all animals of the earth?

hell here?

What is the significance of mentioning the fires of

- How many times does the Bible warn against the tongue and heart?
- What ways do we display our true heart other than our tongue, speak?
- Who are these warnings directed to in the first 12 verses?



