

A JOURNEY THROUGH JAMES—PART 6
“SHUT YO MOUTH!”
Pastor Andy Shaffer—September 6, 2026

James 3:2-10—“We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

Proverbs 18:21—“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Points To Consider:

1) The Tongue Is Powerful

James 3:3-5—“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts...”

James 3:5-6—“...Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.”

2) The Tongue Is Un-Tameable

James 3:7-8—“All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison...”

3) The Tongue Reveals How Corrupt Our Heart Is

Matthew 12:34 (NLT)—“...For whatever is in your heart determines what you say.”

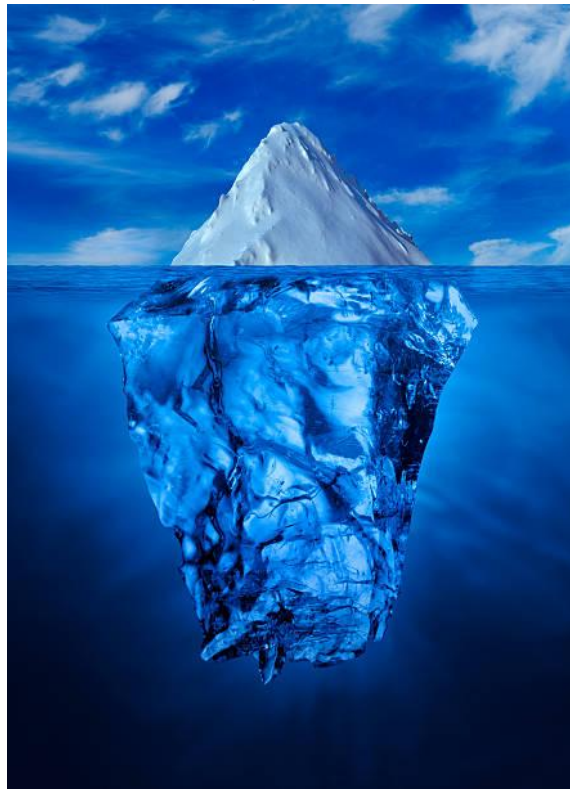
The Big Idea:

A Tongue Problem Is Ultimately A Heart Problem

James 3:12—“My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

Jeremiah 17:9—“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”

Matthew 15:19—“For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”



How To Tame The Tongue:

- **Be Slow To Speak**

James 1:19—“...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

- **Learn To Say “I’m Sorry”**

- **Speak Life-Giving Words**

James 3:17-18—“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

- **Receive God’s Peace**

How Will Your Respond?