

Day 1 – The Tongue

This week in our lesson we discussed Paul's response to being slandered by his brothers in Christ. Not only did we learn what our response should be in this situation, but the gravity our words carry.

Today we will examine a portion of Scripture to gain a greater understanding of just how powerful our tongue is.

Begin your time today in prayer, asking God to illumine His Word to your heart, teaching you, and growing you.

Please read over the following text making observations, take your time and mark it up!

James 3:1-12

Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we

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curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

Observe with me:

1. What 2 things is the tongue likened to in verses 3 and 4:

2. What explanation is given for this comparison in verse 5:

3. What do verses 5 and 6 describe the tongue as? _____

4. Thinking of the great forest fires that plague our world, how can seeing the tongue as fire help us to better understand the importance of our words?

5. List at least 3 ways failing to tame your tongue can cause disunity between you and your sisters in Christ?

6. This text can seem a little discouraging, as if there is no hope for us to tame our tongue, however, if we remember what we have already learned about who sanctifies us (Philippians 1:6); who we are to rely on to produce fruit (Galatians

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5:22-23); and how we protect ourselves from conforming to the ways of this world (Romans 12:2). What are three practical steps you can take to grow in how you use your tongue?

Close out your time today in prayer, confessing any “tongue-related” sins, and asking God to grant you the wisdom to see what things in your life may be tempting you in these areas.

Day 2 – Put Aside / Put On

Remember to begin your time today in prayer, asking God to illumine His Word to your heart, teaching you, and growing you.
Please read over the following text making observations, take your time and mark it up!

Colossians 3:8-17

⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— ¹¹ *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another,

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and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Observe with me:

In verses 8-9;12-13 we are given two contrasting lists, things we as believers are to put aside, or put off and things we are to put on...complete the chart below:

Put Aside...	Put On...

Now, go back through the chart and prayerfully consider the areas in your life you need to grow in. Circle or highlight these and seek Scriptures to meditate on that will encourage you in your walk!

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1. Fill in the blank: Beyond all these things *put on* _____, which is the perfect bond of unity.
2. According to verse 11, are there any race, national, caste or class divisions in the body of Christ? _____
****We are one, unified with Christ, He is our Savior and Lord!
3. What is to rule in the believer's heart? Vs.15 _____
4. What is to richly dwell within each believer? Vs.16 _____

Close out your time today in prayer, meditating on what it means to: "let the peace of Christ rule in your heart," and to, "let the word of Christ richly dwell within you."

Day 3 – Forgiveness

As always, begin your time today in prayer, asking God to illumine His Word to your heart, teaching and growing you.

Please read over the following text making observations, interpretations and applications.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Matthew 18:21-31

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

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²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ ²⁷ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ ²⁹ So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began to plead with him*, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ ³⁰ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. ³¹ So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. ³² Then summoning him, his lord *said to him*, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. ³⁵ My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Observe with Me:

1. According to Ephesians 4:32, does our forgiveness depend on the offender? ____

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2. According to Ephesians 4:32 why should we forgive others?

3. Today we examined one of the many Parables of Jesus, a Parable is a short story used to further illustrate a point. What was the main point of the Parable we studied today?

4. In Matthew 18:24, the slave owes his master 10,000 talents. This is an amount that cannot be repaid. A talent was the largest denomination of money, so 10,000 talents was used as a term to refer to an unimaginable amount of money. How does this relate to the debt we personally owe our Lord and Master?

5. When the Master in the Parable forgave the debt of the slave, how did the slave respond to the small debt his fellow slave owed him?

6. When the Master found out about the slaves' unforgiveness, what was his response?

7. According to the Parable, what should be our motivation for forgiving others?

Close out your time today in prayer, confessing any unforgiveness you may be holding in your heart, unforgiveness only hurts you and your relationship with God, who commands us to forgive. If this is a struggle for you pray that the Lord will grant you repentance and forgiveness in your heart.

Day 4 – Love

Today we will examine a portion of Scripture to gain a greater understanding of just how important love is.

Begin your time today in prayer, confessing any sin and asking God to illumine His Word to your heart, teaching you, and growing you.
Please read over the following text making observations - mark it up!

Ephesians 5:1-5

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ²and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

³But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; ⁴and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Observe with me:

- 1. Who are we to imitate? _____
- 2. How are we to walk? _____
- 3. Copy 1 Corinthians 13:4-7:

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4. According to verse 2, what was the greatest act of love?

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5. What 3 things are not proper for us? (vs.3)

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6. What 3 types of speech are deemed inappropriate for the believer in verse 4?

John MacArthur further explains this speech in his notes as: “obscene and degrading or foolish and dirty, as well as suggestive and immoral.”

7. What should the believer replace such speech with? (vs. 4) _____

8. Copy 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:
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9. It is vital that we note here that verse 5 in no way indicates that someone who has ever committed those sins will not enter the Kingdom of Christ and God nor is this teaching that you can lose your Salvation. This verse is pointing out that a person who practices these things, whose life is characterized by these things, is not a believer and thus will not enter the Kingdom of Christ and God. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to email me, or message me on telegram.

Close out your time today in prayer, praising God for the great love He has bestowed on us, that we might receive forgiveness of our sins and for Christ Jesus who gave His life for you and for me!

Day 5 – Unity

Begin your time today in prayer, confessing any sin and asking God to illumine His Word to your heart.

Read over the following text making observations, applications and interpretations.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Complete the chart below, the first one has been done for you.
 *This chart has been adapted from Fundamentals of the Faith by Dr. John MacArthur.

Observations (what do I see?)	Interpretive Questions Asking questions of each observation.	Interpretations What does it mean? What conclusion can be made?
This verse starts with the word: therefore.	What is the word: therefore, there for?	It points us back to the previous chapter, ch. 4.

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Now that we have made observations, and used interpretive questions to better understand the text, let's make some applications, because we all know that without applying the Word to our lives, we will remain unchanged.

A helpful tool as we seek to apply Scripture to our lives is: SPECS.

- 1. S – Sins to avoid. Are there any sins in this passage that I should be intentional in avoiding?

- 2. P – Promises to cling to. Are there any promises in this text that I can hold on to?

- 3. E – Examples to follow. Do I see any examples in this passage that I should follow?

- 4. C – Commands to obey. Are there any commands to obey?

- 5. Scriptures to memorize. Are there any verse(s) here that I should hide in my heart to increase my ability to meditate on and further apply the truth to my life?

I would like to encourage you to make this a daily habit in your life. God's Word is powerful and transformative...there truly is no comparison, no greater truth in all the world! If you struggle with enjoying time in His Word, confess that to Him and ask that He will give you a passion and love for His truth! He is faithful!
I pray this week has been a blessing in your life!