

# *the* TAKE HOME 10.25.15

## Today's Scripture Passage: James 3:1-12 P 855 Pew Bible

**1** Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. **2** We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. **3** When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. **7** All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, **8** but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. **10** Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. **11** Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? **12** My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

## Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Why do you think James cites the use of our tongues as evidence of our spiritual maturity? (James 3:2)
2. How does what Jesus says about our tongues (Matthew 12:34) help us to better understand what James is saying?
3. What is Paul's counsel about the tongue? (Colossians 4:6). What does it "sound" like in our interactions?
4. Do you agree that nobody has tamed the tongue? (James 3:8) What did James mean?
5. Is James' view of the tongue wholly negative? (James 3:9-12)
6. Lehman Strauss considers James 3 to be a key (realizing the power of the tongue) to the solution of most of the ills of the church (add to their problems in the home). Agree or Disagree? Why?
7. This week, monitor your conversations. Note every time you say something negative. Make note of when someone else does. Make no effort to change your normal conversation....simply listen and record. What does such an exercise teach you?

## Prayer

1. Pray for the strife in Syria
2. Pray for our church in transition
3. Pray for our leaders and our transition team