

AVOIDING TONGUE TROUBLE

James 3:1-12, Matthew 15:10-20
Message by Father Chuck Owens



"Avoiding Tongue Trouble" – August 2022

1. As Christians, how we handle our tongues deserves attention.
 - a. What are the three images James uses in the text to illustrate the power of our tongues?
 - b. Recall a time when someone's words had a positive impact on you and a time when your words impacted someone positively.
 - c. Recall a time when someone's words had a negative impact on you and a time when your words impacted someone negatively.
 - d. In b. and c. above, what was the big impact the small words exchanged had on you? On others?

2. In Matthew 15:19 ESV, Jesus enumerates seven forms of deadly poison that are often spewed from our mouths. What are they?
 - a. In the previous verse, Jesus says these forms of verbal poison reveal what's in our hearts; what have the words you've uttered recently told others about what's in your heart?
 - b. What have the words of others revealed to you about them?
 - c. Is the "you" you're revealing the "you" you most want to be? Is it the "you" God most wants you to be?

3. Gossip, deliberately lying and destructive criticism are among the deadly verbal poisons frequently uttered with devastating effect.
 - a. Are you guilty of repeating hearsay without verifying it? Why?
 - b. If asked, would others say you are an honest person? Why?
 - c. Have you ever used words with a destructive intent? Why?

4. Are the words of your mouth and the meditations of your heart always pleasing to the Lord? (Psalm 19:14) If not, what does that say about you?

