

James

3

TAMING
THE
TONGUE



James 3:1-2

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Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² 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.

James 3:3-4

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³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.



James 3:3-5

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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.



James 3:5 -6



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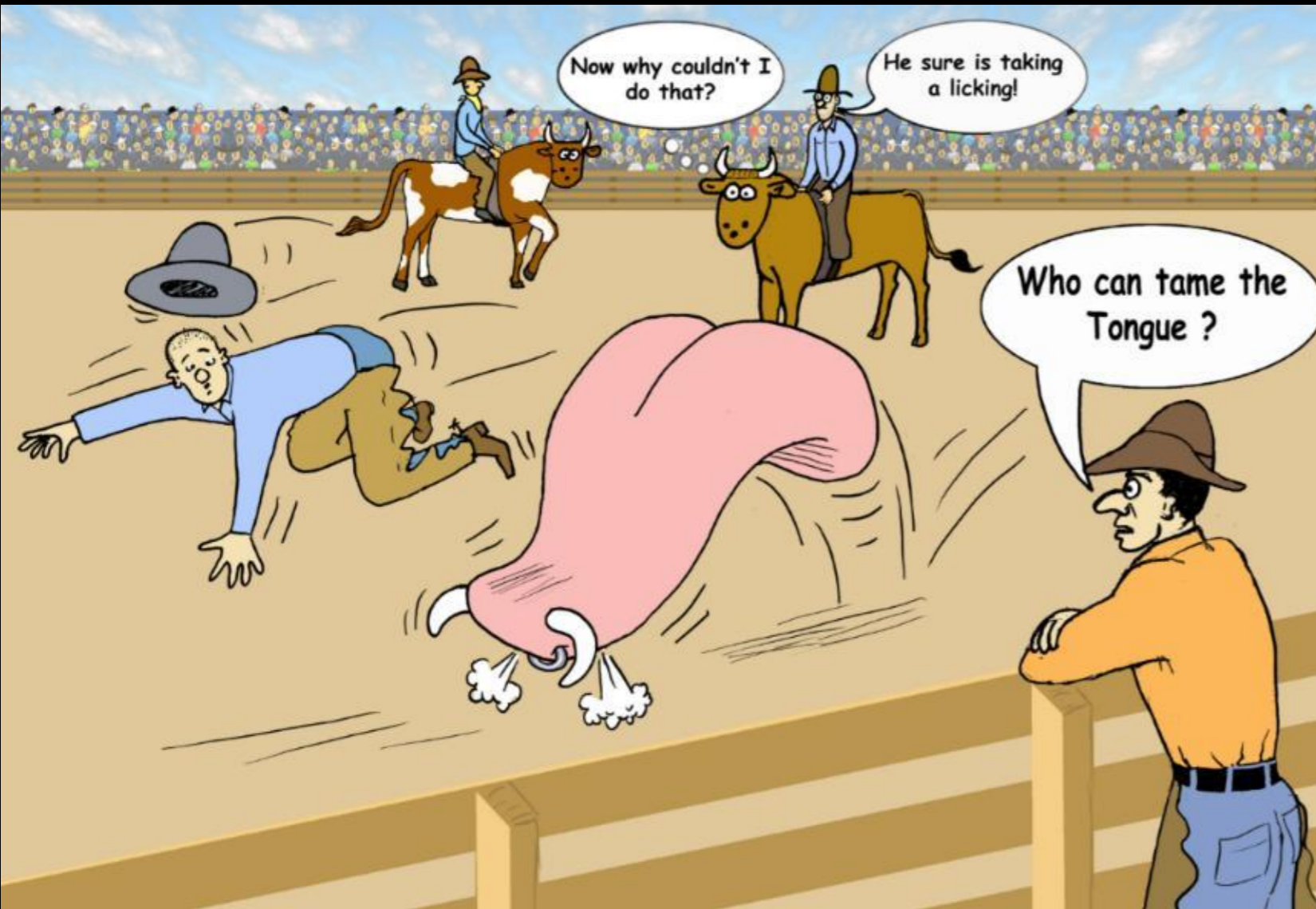
⁵....Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.



James 3:7-8

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

Destructive Words



Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me.

Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will hurt me more.

You idiot!

Can't you do anything right?

You are never going to amount to anything in your life.

Youth Suicide

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Suicide – when the pain of living becomes greater than the fear of dying.

41,000 young people aged 12-17 have attempted suicide.

Youth Suicide

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Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims.

At least half of suicides among young people are related to bullying.

Gossip

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Proverbs 16:28

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 11:13

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

James 3:9-10

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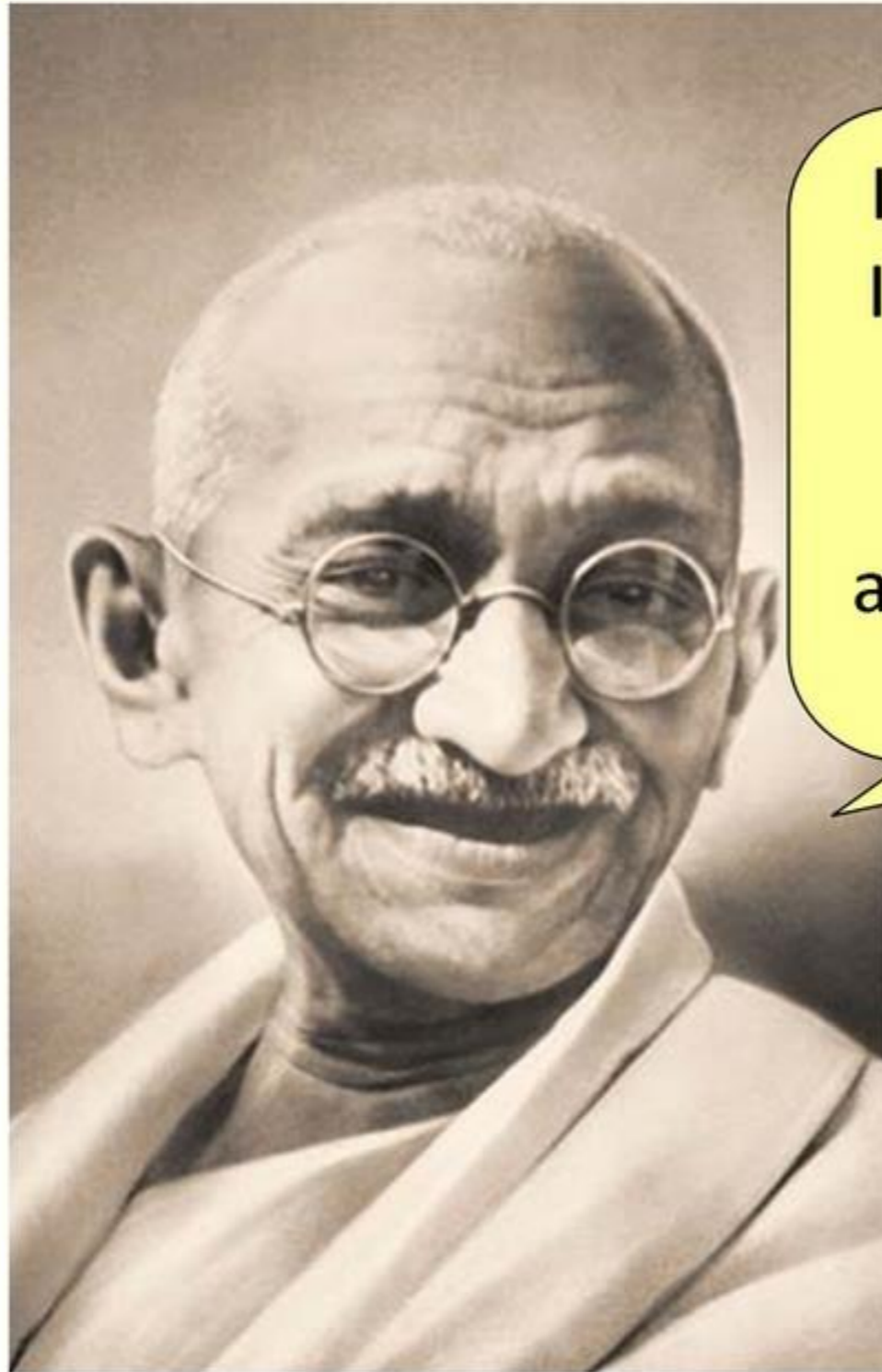


⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Hypocrisy

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I like your Christ,
I do not like your
Christians.
Your Christians
are so unlike your
Christ.

How do we tame the tongue?

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If you can't say anything nice don't say anything at all



Tame

James 3:13-16

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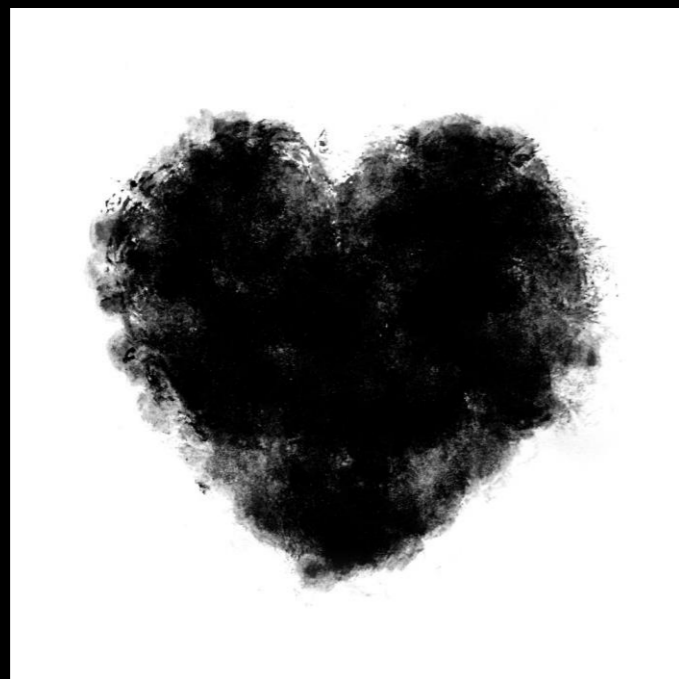


¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Change of Heart

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Luke 6:45

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Intimacy with Jesus

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Only God can transform your heart

Jesus is our example

Read about Jesus

Talk to him about life

Practice his principles for living by the power of the Spirit

Intimacy with Jesus

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The Golden Rule – *Do for others as you would have them do for you*



Fruit of the Spirit

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James 3:17-18

¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

Words of Love and Kindness



One thing I particularly appreciate about you is.....

I feel most loved by you when you.....

What is that you would really love to do more of together?

Words of Love and Kindness



Before you speak

THINK

T ... Is it **true**?

H ... Is it **helpful**?

I ... Is it **inspiring**?

N ... Is it **necessary**?

K ... Is it **kind**?