October 25, 2026 **Jonah Carpenter**
Series Title: James
Sermon Title: "An Untamed Tongue"
Text: James 3:1-12

An Untamed Tongue...

1. **DISTORTS** our **AUTHORITY**, vv. 1-2, *(see also Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 5:4, Philippians 2:14, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 5:1-5)*.

2. **DETERMINES** our **DIRECTION**, vv. 3-8 *(see also Matthew 5:16, Matthew 5:22, Matthew 5:36-37, Matthew 12:33-37, James 1:5, James 1:12, James 1:19).*

3. **DISPLAYS** our **UNTAMED HEART**, vv. 9-12 *(Isaiah 6:5-7, Jeremiah 17:9-10, Luke 6:43-45, Romans 3:23).*

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. James warns us that not many should become teachers. What does that reveal about the heart of God? Why does God hold leaders to a higher standard? As you think through your life, are there people who look to you for wisdom and guidance as a follower of Jesus? If so, what does it look like to use that authority well? What happens when someone who holds spiritual authority over the lives of others falls short of their calling? If someone is considering becoming a teacher in the faith, what should they do to make sure that they live up to God's standards for leaders and teachers in His church?
2. James tells us that we all stumble in many ways, but that someone who never stumbles in what they say is, essentially, perfect. What makes our words such a common place for us to stumble? As you reflect on your own life, how has your mouth gotten you into trouble? As you think through the rest of scripture, even outside of James 3, where does the Word tell us to use our words well? If our words are such an easy area for us to fall short in how we follow the Lord, what safeguards should we have so that we don't stumble in what we say?
3. James warns us that our tongues can set the direction of our lives, like a ship's rudder or the bit in the mouth of a horse. Why is it so tempting for us to underestimate the power of our tongue? In your life, can you think of an example of a time when you said something that drastically impacted the direction of your life? If we lived our life constantly remembering the impact that our tongue could have on our life's direction, how do you think that would change the way that we spoke to others?
4. The issue with our words goes much deeper than our tongue, it's a sign of a heart problem before the Lord. If that's true, what do we need to do to solve that deeper problem? If the answer is "turn to Jesus" does that mean that we don't need to put in work to fix how we use our words? How can we balance our personal responsibility to live righteous lives, while also living completely dependent on Christ to change our hearts?

NEXT WEEK: James 3:13-18, Pastor Andy McClellan
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