

Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak: Part 1 (James 3:1–12)

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INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

The context of trials

Benefiting from trials, rather than blaming God for our failure in trials

Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (1:19–20)

Let every man be swift to hear (1:21–2:26)

Being hearers who do (1:21–27)

Not holding our faith with an attitude of partiality (2:1–13)

Deliverance through applying what we believe (2:14–26)

Let every man be slow to speak (3:1–18)

Let every man be slow to speak (4:1–5:6)

Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak (3:1–18)

3:1 Believers should not rush to teach, because teachers face a stricter judgment at Bema

Informality of the teaching situation that existed after the believers were scattered

James is not speaking about giftedness (e.g., whether a person has a teaching gift)

Why is there a stricter judgment for teachers at the Bema?

3:2 All believers (including James) stumble in various ways, so the believer who can prevent self from stumbling in words, is mature enough to prevent stumbling in other areas of life

3:3 By analogy, a handler who controls a horse's mouth through a bridle and bit also controls the entire body of the horse

3:4 Similarly, though the rudder is far smaller than sails, it enables the pilot to direct a ship

3:5a Similarly, the little tongue is a great boaster

3:5b–6a The kindles (as it were) huge forest fires, the (embodiment) of evil

3:6b The tongue defiles the whole body and sets on fire all that our lives touch, but is itself set on fire by Gehenna

3:6a In our course of life the tongue can inflame anything

3:7–8 Though man really has sovereignty over all beasts, the evil & poisonous tongue excepted

What do we say in light of verse 8 about James' view of the Christian life?

3:9 The tongue's unruliness is evident, because it blesses the Creator, while cursing those He created in His image

3:10–12 The same mouth both blesses and curses, which is entirely inappropriate for believers, just as (in nature) springs do not produce both bitter and sweet water; figs do not produce olives; grapevines do not produce figs; springs do not produce both salt water and fresh

CONCLUSION