

Let Every Man Be Slow to Speak: Part 2 (James 3:13-18)

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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

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 Tongue defiles the whole body & sets on fire all that our lives touch, but Gehenna sets it on fire

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

3:9 Tongue's unruliness is clear, because it blesses the Creator, but curses those 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

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

NEW EXPOSITION

**3:13 Believers are to manifest Godly wisdom through applying the word
This is the only way to manifest the source of our wisdom**

How were some of James' readers trying to display their wisdom?

How slow should one be to speak? (Remember 1:19: the outline statement)

3:14–16 Bitter envy & self-centeredness (1) demonstrate that one's wisdom did not come from God (but is worldly and demonic) and (2) produce confusion and all manner of evil

3:17 Godly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, yielding, full of mercy and good fruits, not partial, and not hypocritical

Pure

Peaceable,

Gentle **cf. 1:27 and 2:13**

Yielding

Full of mercy **cf. 2:13b**

Full of good fruits **cf. 1:22–25; 2:14–26**

Not partial **cf. 2:1–13**

Not hypocritical **cf. 3:14**

CONCLUSION