Say It's So 2-26-17

3. The Little Member James 3:1-10

- 1. **v1** do not be quick to be a teacher they will be judged on a higher level; James uses this illustration to show the importance and power of words; teachers are responsible for words
 - a. a teacher is responsible to teach the truth, not their opinion
 - b. what a teacher teaches affects many lives
 - c. a teacher is expected to know and live the truth they teach
 - d. James was talking about literal teachers, but our words teach and convey information, good or bad to our family; friends; fellow workers; neighbors; ourselves
- 2. **v2** we all make mistakes, but if we purpose to carefully watch what we say this is a sign of maturity; Christian maturity is walking in love, handling your emotions & controlling your tongue (Psalm 17:3 S1)
 - a. (Matthew 12:34 S2) our tongue reflects what is in our spirit; if we can control our tongue we can control our entire body; words effect our health; character, future
- 3. **v3** a bit in a horse's mouth enables the rider to make the animal obey and thus control its entire body; the rider must do something with the horse's mouth to make it obey
 - a. the rider has to do something with its mouth—the result is arriving at the desired destination
 - b. we must do something with our mouth as well; put God's Word into our spirit and speak it out, though it takes effort to do this, if we do, we too will arrive at our desired destination
 - c. we must speak what we desire and then we will have it; health, freedom from strife, love, career, finances; our words always impact our life; we use them to help others as well
- 4. v4 back then, a ship was driven by the wind; the wind does not take it where it wants
 - a. the man steering the ship does by the ship's rudder circumstances are brought in line by words; your words change circumstances use these situations to grow
 - b. effort must be made to hold that rudder tightly to counteract the winds
 - c. effort must be made to nullify circumstances by your words; Note: a horse has a will, this represents the flesh, a quick change is possible; the rudder represents circumstances that take longer for your words to change (but they will)
 - d. a ship can carry many people your tongue can guide many through tough circumstances and help them arrive at their destination
 - e. speak faith; what the Word says; correct gently with Word
- 5. v5 this is why we need to control our tongue; our tongues are also little members of our body just like the horse's bit and the ship's rudder (NLT & Message Translations S3)

- a. the tongue is little but just like the bit and helm it steers your life in a direction
- b. just as it takes effort to control the horse or the ship, it takes effort to control the tongue
- c. 'a little fire kindles' we must be so careful little seemingly harmless negative words can start something that grows into incredible destruction
- 6. **v6** tongue if we do not control it is like fire it will burn you and others; destroying all
 - a. 'world of iniquity' the part of your body without God; your mouth can be hooked up with the world system of men living hostile to and apart from God saying incredibly damaging things about yourself & others
 - b. your tongue can 'defile' corrupt the purity and perfection; contaminate your body
 - c. 'course of nature' the cycle of existence; the general course of life (Psalm 139:14) you are fearfully and wonderfully made; your negative words can greatly harm you & change that
 - d. 'hell' satan is behind all of this, he knows the power of your tongue; Gehenna, literally the place of eternal torment; used to be a garbage dump where refuse was set on fire
- 7. v7 (Genesis 1:26) man was given dominion over all animal life man is the god of this world
 - a. man can and has tamed, & domesticated many of the animals
 - b. no man unaided has ever been able to do this with his tongue
- 8. v8 natural man cannot control the tongue; a BA/BHS Christian can by the Word; an effort
 - a. he cannot tame his tongue and his words eventually hurt him and others; satan fuels
 - b. 'unruly' unstable; the tongue can be wicked and injures you and others
 - c. 'deadly poison' (Psalm 140:3 S4) the tongue & lips of a snake are poison
 - d. Our unsaved nature is pride (even if you are BA, if you are out of fellowship with God pride is in the soul) no apologies; love to gossip; critical; judgmental; sarcastic
 - e. with all of our accomplishments we are more savage with our mouths than ever before
- 9. **v9** we bless God it is easy to praise Him and love Him because of all He has done for us; but then with the same mouth we curse and speak against people who are made in His image; our tongue is linked to the control of the Holy Spirit and the flesh often we operate out of both
- 10. **v10** this should not be our condition is not hopeless; God would not have said this if we could not do anything about it if we cannot control our mouths He would not tell us we should
 - a. whoever you yield your time that is whose vocabulary you will have