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“Talk is Not Cheap”

James 3:3-12

Message Series: “Out of Control –
Taming the Power of the Tongue”

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James 3:3-12

³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

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James gives three warnings regarding the tongue:

1. Although the tongue is a **small** body part, it wields **tremendous** influence. (vv. 3-6)
2. Although animals can be **tamed**, our tongues are virtually **impossible** to manage. (vv. 7-8)
3. Although the **tongue** can praise God, it can also **expose** our duplicity. (vv. 9-12)

- Audio and video recordings of this message and an outline (with answers) will be posted to the Grace website later today at www.atgrace.com/sermons.
- A list of songs played during the contemporary service (along with iTunes links for each) can be found at www.atgrace.com/songlist.