

## James 3 Summarized

### Sentences

3:1-2, my brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

3:3-4, indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

3:5-6, even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

3:7-8, for every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

3:9-10, with it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

3:11-12, does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

3:13, who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

3:14, but if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

3:15-16, this wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.

3:17, but the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

3:18, now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## Paragraphs

3:1-5, [This is what it looks like to be a doer of God's Word and not a hearer only regarding speech:] James' audience shouldn't be too eager to teach since teachers will receive a stricter judgment. Because the tongue, though little, it boasts great things; it's a small fire that can burn a forest down. It controls the whole body like bits control horses and small rudders control large ships. So if anyone can control their tongue, he's a perfect man, able to control other sinful impulses.

3:6-12, the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity that's set on fire by hell. It can defile every area of life. Man has tamed every kind of beast, but no man can tame the tongue. It's an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father and curse those He made in His image, blessing and cursing out of the same mouth, this should not be! Nature itself reveals this, i.e., you can't get fresh and bitter water nor salt and fresh water out of the same spring. Nor can you get olives from a fig tree or figs from a grapevine.

3:13-18, if someone in James' audience is wise and understanding, they should show it by doing something in the humility of wisdom instead of saying something. But if they're envious and self-seeking, they should keep their mouths shut instead of boasting and lying against the truth. This wisdom is not godly, but completely human and demonic. Wherever envy and self-seeking exist, it will result in confusion and every evil thing. But Godly wisdom is first pure, then unifying, willing to yield, full of compassion and concern, and without favoritism or hypocrisy. And it results in fruits of righteousness that are planted by those who make peace.

## Whole Chapter

[This is what it looks like to be a doer of God's Word and not a hearer only regarding speech:] those in James' audience should not be eager to open their mouths to teach since teachers will receive a stricter judgment. Because though we stumble in other areas, the tongue is unique. It's a tiny thing that can control and ruin every area of life. It's impossible for any man to tame it; if anyone can, he's a perfect man, able to control other sinful impulses. But the tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison and it is set on fire by hell. We use it to bless God and curse others. This hypocrisy should not be. Thus, if anyone wants to show their wisdom, they should do something rather than open their mouths to say something. But if they're full of envy and self-seeking, then they will boast and lie against the truth. To speak this way, is to speak with Satan's wisdom and it will result in confusion and wickedness. But if we speak with God's wisdom, then our actions will be pure, unifying, and full of compassion, i.e., we will be individuals who unify instead of divide.