Bible questions plan week 37 day 5

James 3

World English Bible British Edition

Controlling what we say

1 Let not many of you be teachers, my brothers,
knowing that we will receive heavier judgement.2 For
we all stumble in many things. Anyone who doesn't
stumble in word is a perfect person, able to bridle the
whole body also. 3 Indeed, we put bits into the horses'
mouths so that they may obey us, and we guide their
whole body. 4 Behold, the ships also, though they are
so big and are driven by fierce winds, are yet guided
by a very small rudder, wherever the pilot desires.

What do the examples from James show us?

5 So the tongue is also a little member, and boasts
great things. See how a small fire can spread to a
large forest! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The world of
iniquity amongst our members is the tongue, which
defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of
nature, and is set on fire by Gehenna.* 7 For every
kind of animal, bird, creeping thing, and sea creature
is tamed, and has been tamed by mankind; 8 but
nobody can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of
deadly poison.

What warning is given about the tongue?

** Gehenna was a valley outside Jerusalem known for its early association with pagan child sacrifice and later became a symbol of judgement, death, and desecration.*

9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we
curse men who are made in the image of God. 10 Out
of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing. My
brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a
spring send out from the same opening fresh and
bitter water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, yield
olives, or a vine figs? Thus no spring yields both salt
water and fresh water.

How should we use our tongues?

13 Who is wise and understanding amongst you? Let
him show by his good conduct that his deeds are
done in gentleness of wisdom.

What should a wise person do?

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition
in your heart, don't boast and don't lie against the
truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down
from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic.
16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition are, there
is confusion and every evil deed. 17 But the wisdom
that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle,
reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without
partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of
righteousness is sown in peace by those who make
peace.

How are the two kinds of wisdom contrasted?