

Pure Religion #1-b

Text : **James 1:26 ; Psalm 141: 1-3 ; Mark 7: 14-23**

S#1.
S#2.

A. Our previous lesson was actually part one of this lesson.

1. In it we saw that our words establish the validity of our spiritual maturity.
 - a. **James 1: 26** – **If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.**
 - b. Our tongue reveals our heart and thus reveals our faith.
 - c. We discuss the things that we think about, things that are important to us.
2. Whether used for good or evil, our words have great power.
 - a. The “sticks and stones may my bones” limerick is a great lie. **Words do hurt.**
 - b. Words can defuse a volatile situation or inflame it. (***sooth or cause suicide***) S#3.
 - c. Words started the famous Boxer Rebellion that resulted in many deaths in China.
 - 1) In 1899 four reporters in Denver, Colorado, concocted a fake news story.
 - 2) They happened to meet while unsuccessfully loitering for a story in train station.
 - 3) Moving to a bar they humorously mused about a fake story to fill their columns.
 - 4) Becoming serious, they eliminated any story that could be easily verified.
 - 5) After several beers they decided on a foreign story and then on one in China.
 - 6) They agreed to report having met with engineers who were en route to meet with Chinese authorities to discuss best way to remove the Great Wall of China.
 - 7) Surprisingly, the story took roots and was spread all over the country and world.
 - 8) By the time the story reached China, it had been further exaggerated.
 - 9) When the super nationalistic, anti-western group commonly called the “Boxers” (“*The Order of Literary Patriotic Harmonious Fists*,”) heard of this, they attacked with a view toward exterminating all foreign influence in China.
 - 10) Thousands of Christian converts were slaughtered along with the missionaries and the staffs of foreign embassies.
 - 11) Any army comprised of 12,000 French, British, American, German and Russian troops fought to suppress the Boxer Rebellion in which thousands were kill.
 - 12) The whole course of Chinese history was changed by the fake news falsely reported by four reporters who had too many beers and nothing to write.

Sources incl. : <http://www.neatorama.com/2011/08/08/the-newspaper-hoax-that-shook-the-world/>
3. God instructs that we must monitor our words and actively control what we say.

Eph. 4: 29 – **Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.** S#4.

4. Our words will be part of the **standard** by which God will judge us.

a. **Matt. 12: 36** – But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, **S#5.**
and They shall give an accounting in the day of judgment.

b. God not only knows what we have said, He knows **why** we said it.

I Cor. 4: 5 – wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts;
and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

B. Now that we understand that God requires us to bridle our tongues, S#6.
how do we accomplish this seemingly impossible task ?

1. James warns us that an unbridled tongue limits our service in the church.

James 3: 1-2 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing **S#7.**
that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says,
he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

2. No man can keep his tongue totally bridled at all time. (*lifelong goal*) **S#8.**

James 3: 7-8 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. **8** But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil anfull of deadly poison.

S#9.

I. We must realize that in order to bridle his tongue, one must first bridle his heart.

A. Jesus taught us that the tongue is the spokesman for our hearts. S#10.

1. **Matt. 12: 34-35** You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
35 The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.

2. A common lie *“Sorry I said those things. That was not me, I was just angry.”*

a. The truth is that it was and it is the real you without your mask in place.

b. When one is angry, drunk or upset he takes off without his bridle.

3. By nature the heart of man is polluted with wickedness.

S#11.

B. Man’s greatest challenge in bridling his tongue is to purge his heart of evil.

1. **Jer. 17: 9-10** The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick;
Who can understand it? **10** I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind,

2. **Mark 7: 20-22** That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. **#12.**
21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, **22** deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. **23** All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.

C. When evil thoughts come into your mind, it is proof that you are human. S#13.

1. “You cannot keep birds from flying over your head but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair” ... *Martin Luther*
2. When the Apostle instructed, “Set your mind on things above.” (**Col 3**) he established the principle that we are responsible to **discipline our thoughts**.
3. He also told the Philippians what to think about.

a. **Phil 4: 8** – ... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. S#14.

b. Ralph Waldo Emerson — ‘You become what you think about all day long.’ S#15.

D. When one becomes a Christian he starts the process of remodeling his mind.

1. **Rom. 12: 2** – And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
2. Controlling what our minds dwell on is the first step in the transformation.
3. The transformation of our minds is the first step in bridling our tongues.

II. One step in bridling our tongue is crowd the evil out of our hearts.

S#16.

S#17.

A. All we know about God and God’s will for us we learn from the scriptures.

1. The scriptures teach us everything we need to know to serve and to please God.
II Tim. 3: 16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2. The scriptures are able to keep us from sinning, even sinning with our tongue. S#18.
 - a. **Psa. 119: 11** – Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You
 - b. **Psa. 37: 31** – The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip.
3. Your tongue is a wet place, it’s easy to slip.

B. We talk about what we think about so it’s important that we edit our thoughts.

1. When around a salesman, one has to be cautious not to mention his product.
2. **ILL.** – An old friend was a Ford mechanic; mention a car problem and he was off.
3. When we have our heads filled with thoughts of the gospel, we talk about it.
 - a. The only way we can have it on our minds is to put it on our minds daily.
 - b. We read the scriptures each morning and assign our minds to meditate on it.

4. When we have our minds filled with the gospel, we can't keep it in there. **S#19.**

Jer. 20: 9 – But if I say, "I will not remember Him or speak anymore in His name,"
Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones;
And I am weary of holding it in, and I cannot endure it.

S#20.

- C. When one's heart is filled with righteousness thoughts there's no room for evil.

S#21.

III. To bridle his tongue one must take time to consider his words before speaking.

- A. In average circumstances most people just respond without thinking about it.

1. When working at GM while going to school, foreman used very profane language. However, when he was about to administer discipline, he chose words carefully.
2. Kids used to tell a boy in my youth group "Open mouth, change feet, then proceed."
3. We just don't take what we say very seriously unless we are forced to do so.

- B. The scriptures teach us to think before we speak.

S#22.

1. **James 1: 19** – This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;
2. **Prov. 29: 20** – Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.
3. **Prov. 18: 13** – He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him.

- C. Bridling our tongue involves limiting our words. *Don't talk too much.*

S#23.

1. **Prov. 10: 19** – When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable,
But he who restrains his lips is wise.
2. **Eccl. 5: 3** – For the dream comes through much effort and
the voice of a fool through many words. **S#24.**
3. **Prov. 17: 28** – Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise;
When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.
4. **Prov. 13: 3** – The one who guards his mouth preserves his life;
The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. (*Married man's verse*)

S#25.

IV. We can't bridle our tongues by using only a negative approach, direct it.

- A. James presents the tongue as an unbeatable foe.

S#26.

1. **James 3: 7-8** For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.
2. It is a battle that every Christian fights, but one which no one completely wins.

B. Way back in the time of the psalmist, men were battling their tongues. S#27.

1. **Psa. 34: 11-13** Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. **12** Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? **13** Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.
2. Observe, David was concerned about the affect his tongue would have on sinners.
Psa. 39: 1 – I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; S#28.
I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle while the wicked are in my presence."
3. As Christians, we are instructed to have the same concern for lost people.
Col. 4: 5- 6 – Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. S#29.
4. The Christian's tongue literally holds within it the power of life and death for sinners.
 - a. **Prov. 18: 21** – Death and life are in the power of the tongue, S#30.
And those who love it will eat its fruit.
 - b. Holding the eternal destiny of another in your hand is an awesome responsibility.

C. Jesus placed the saving message of the gospel in the hands of ALL His followers.

1. **Mark 16: 15-16** – And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the S#31.
gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
2. **Rom. 10: 17** – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
3. May God give us the wisdom and the boldness to use our tongues as He intended.

CONCLUSION :

S#32.

A. Prayer is the key to bridling our tongues; let's emulate the prayers of the prophet

1. **Psa. 141: 3** – Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips
2. **Eph. 6: 19** – Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the
opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness
the mystery of the gospel,

B. How do we bridle our tongues ?

S#33.

1. The bridle for the tongue is applied in our heart. *Sanctify our hearts.*
2. Filling the heart with good crowds out the evil; the positive eliminates the negative.
3. Take time to put on the bridle before speaking; put mind in gear before speaking.
4. Devote our tongue to its intended purpose. (**I Pet. 2: 9**)

INVITATION :

Is your religion real ? Have you devoted yourself to God ? S#34.

S#35. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Mark 7: 14-23**

14 After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: **15** there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. **16** [" If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."]

17 When he had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. **18** And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, **19** because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.) **20** And He was saying, " That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. **21** "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, **22** deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. **23** "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

Psalms 141: 1-3

1 O Lord, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You! **2** May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. **3** Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

James 1: 26

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.