

James 3:1-6

Teaching Guide

Date: 05.31.09

Do you know what the most dangerous thing in the entire world is? Could it be a force of nature like a hurricane or a tsunami? Maybe it is a latent virus ready to engulf the world (e.g. the "swine flu"). Maybe it is an out-of-control dictator like North Korea's Kim Jong-Il or the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. While both of these men possess an ideology that poses a threat to the world through the development of nuclear weapons; can they be branded with the label of being the most dangerous thing in the entire world? Today, you will find out what this "thing" is and consider what steps we need to take in order to disarm it.

I. A _____ – v.1

"Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness."

II. _____ for the warning – v.2-4

"For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. "

A. _____ #1

"If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. "

B. _____ #2

"Look 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."

III. More _____ for the warning – v. 5-6

"So 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! 6 And 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. "

Flow of Thought:

I. Testing our trust in God:

A. In Trials – v.2-12

B. In Temptation – v.13-17

C. In Life – v.18-21

II. Testing our Focus – 2:1-4:17

A. In how we relate within the community of faith:

1. Favoritism? – 2:1-7

2. Love! – 2:8-13

3. Faith? Works! – 2:14-26

4. Speech – 3:1-18

How can I disarm my mouth?

1. Feed your mind – "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Ps. 119:11
2. Humble your life & humble your heart – "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." I Peter 5:5
3. Confess your condition – "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9