### James

## Chapter 3

1Brothers, not many of you should become teachers, because you know that [teachers] will be held more accountable… 2and we all make a lot of mistakes!  
  
So if there’s any man who doesn’t stumble in his words, he’s perfect and he can lead his whole body as if with a bridle... 3Because if we put a bridle in the mouth of a horse to make it obey us, we can control its whole body.  
  
4{Look!} Even large boats that are driven by strong winds are steered wherever the pilot wishes by very small rudders… 5and that’s just like it is with the tongue! Even though it’s just a little body part, it can boast about big things… And just a little flame can set a whole forest on fire!  
  
6That’s how the tongue is… It’s a flame in a world of unrighteousness.  
  
It sits among our body members as the corrupter of the whole body, which sets our very origins on fire… And what sets them ablaze is the garbage dump!  
  
7Even though every sort of wild animal, flying creature, slithering thing, and sea creature can be tamed (and has been tamed) by men, 8no man can tame the tongue… For it won’t stop saying bad things, and it’s full of deadly poison.  
  
9With it we can praise the highest Lord and the Father, or curse men who came into existence in God’s image… 10So out of the same mouth comes both blessings and curses.  
  
There’s no need for things like this to keep happening, my brothers!  
  
11Are there any fountains that bubble up both sweet and bitter [water]?  
  
12Fig trees can’t produce olives.  
  
Grapevines can’t produce figs.  
  
And you can’t get sweet water from salt water, can you my brothers?  
  
13So, who among you is wise and understanding?  
  
Let him show that he has the inner strength that comes from wisdom through the ways that he acts and the things that he does.  
  
14But if you’re bitterly jealous, and in your hearts you just want to argue... Don’t be too proud of this and don’t lie about the facts. 15This isn’t wisdom that comes from above! It’s earthly, animalistic, and demonic!  
  
16For where you find jealousy and arguing, you’ll also find disorder and everything that’s foul.  
  
17But the wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, reasonable, ready to obey, and full of mercy and good fruitage. It isn’t hypocritical or prejudiced, 18because the seeds of the fruit of righteousness are planted in peace by the peacemakers!