

“Faith Works”

Series on the book of James

## ***The Monster in My Mouth***

James 1: 19-21; 1: 26; 3: 1-12; 4: 11, 12

*My tongue must be something to be feared! After all, it is caged by a row of teeth and walled in by my mouth. It is like a snake ready to spew poison. As relevant as the day it was written, James hit's the nail on the head as we battle the monster within us all!*

### **IT CONTROLS US** (even though it cannot control itself...)

- Like a bit in a horses mouth or the rudder of a ship (3: 3-4)
- Like an untended burn on a windy day.... (3: 5, 6)
- It is really only reflecting the condition of the heart...(Matthew 12: 34-36)

### **IT CORRUPTS US**

- With deception (1: 26)
- It is humanly untamable and hellishly destructive (3: 6, 8)
- It is set on fire by hell (gehenna)

### **IT IS COMBATIVE**

- With ourselves (1: 20, 21)
- With others (3: 9; 4: 11)
- With God (4: 12)
- It doesn't let up and is full of poison (3: 8)

### **IT COMPROMISES US**

- it shows what a play actor (hypocrite) we are (3: 9-12)

### ***Will you Surrender or Battle the Monster?***

1. Get a heart exam (Psalms 139: 23, 24; Proverbs 17: 3)
2. Agree with God it is serious, so prevalent (Psalms 141:3, 4a)
3. Be a quick listener, slow speaker, and even slower reactor (1: 19-22)
4. Be led by the Spirit (Galatians 5: 17, 18)

**Application: “Taming the Monster” Cash Can**